

Tory and Labour attack Bill

Points to win passports in Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE rebels and the Labour Party last night launched a vigorous attack on the nationality scheme for Hong Kong after the Prime Minister spoke of Britain's "solemn duty" to the colony in the run-up to the Chinese takeover in 1997.

A complicated points system will be introduced to decide who should be granted the 50,000 British passports to be issued to key Hong Kong residents.

Details of the scheme were announced after the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill was given a formal Commons first reading.

Passports will be allocated on the recommendation of the Governor of Hong Kong through four separate sections: general, disciplined services, sensitive services and key entrepreneurs.

More than 36,000 places will be awarded under the general section, which covers businessmen and managers, accountants, engineers, information service workers, doctors and scientists, lawyers, and educational staff.

The "disciplined services" section will cover some 7,000 prison staff, members of the armed forces, police, customs and immigration workers.

More than 6,000 places will be available for those in "sensitive services", such as senior civil servants and those considered to be in vulnerable jobs, including journalists and politically active people.

The fourth section, offering

500 places, will be for people mainly chosen by the Governor — who have provided large-scale investment and employment in the colony and whose departure would undermine confidence.

People in the general and disciplined services sections will earn their passports according to a points system governed by age, experience, education, proficiency in English and British links. The main beneficiaries will be those in the 30 to 40 age group.

Plans to bring in a special scheme under which selected company staff would have been given preferential treatment have been dropped.

The Government faces one of its biggest revolts over the Bill, which has been the subject of prolonged Cabinet argument. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said: "It is clear that the emigration which has been going on from Hong Kong has been deeply unsettling and this measure is needed now."

Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative chairman, is leading the backbench revolt. Last night he was holding his fire until the second reading, but his allies were outspoken in their attacks. Mr Tim Jupp, MP for Thurnock, said: "It was a complete nonsense that would anger the Chinese government and undermine the agreement with Britain."

Mr Tebbit's supporters have claimed that up to 40 Tory MPs would not support the Bill, although the Government whips believe the true figure to be much lower.

Labour will vote against the second reading of the Bill, although up to 20 Labour MPs could refuse to go into the same lobby as Mr Tebbit.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Home Secretary, described the Bill as a "wicked piece of legislation". To allow 50,000 heads of household and their dependents into Britain before the many applicants now awaiting entry would be "a denial of basic justice".

He said: "This Bill grants citizenship solely on the basis of wealth, power and influence." It gave privileged protection from existing immigration rules to those qualifying for a passport.

"This Bill is worse than we had expected. The Shadow Cabinet decided unanimously that we should oppose the Bill on second reading and insist

Who will qualify, page 2
Colin Holmes, page 14
Leading article, page 15

United Germany 'will reject nuclear arms'

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

A REUNIFIED Germany would consider making a declaration renouncing any right to have nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, Herr Hans-Dieter Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

Herr Genscher's suggestion, disclosed after a meeting with President Bush at the White House, was aimed at calming Soviet fears over a reunited Germany becoming a member of the Nato alliance.

West Germany has no nuclear weapons of its own, but operates a battery of 26 short-range Lance nuclear

Genscher offer, page 11



Dr Raymond Crockett after the hearing: "My concern was for my patients. I did the right thing before God"

Labour gains 5 new life peers

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

TWO former European Commissioners, Mr Stanley Clinton-Davis and Mr Ivor Richard QC, have been created life peers to strengthen the Labour benches in the Lords.

They are among 14 working peers, including five women, approved by the Queen yesterday. They have been picked most of them carmarthen for front-bench posts.

A senior Government source said that Mrs Thatcher was keen to strengthen the role of women in society. At present only 65 out of 1,177 peers (5.5 per cent) are women.

It is the first working peers list for more than three years, although Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Paddy Ashdown have campaigned strongly for the creation of more life peers because of losses on their benches in the upper House through death and ill health.

The Opposition peers were said, however, to be "spitting with anger" last night that the Prime Minister had insisted on eight new Conservative peers while giving Labour only five and the Liberal Democrats, one. Although she cannot chose the Opposition parties' new peers, she decides the numbers.

Labour had a net loss over the past eight years with many others in their eighties and nineties. The present standing of the parties in the Lords is 423 Conservatives; Labour 108; 53 Liberal Democrats; 19 SDP; and 289 independent peers.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, said yesterday: "The Opposition warmly welcome the five new peers."

Full list, page 24

Kidney doctor defiant after being struck off

By John Young and David Sepstod

DR Raymond Crockett, the Harley Street specialist involved in the sale of kidneys, was yesterday ordered to be struck off the medical register for serious professional misconduct.

The General Medical Council said he had brought disgrace upon himself and dishonour upon his profession in his conduct towards four Turkish donors who were paid for their kidneys.

The two surgeons involved in the operations, Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce, were also found guilty of serious professional misconduct, but are to be allowed to continue to practise under restrictions.

Mr Bewick will be allowed to work only within the health service for the next three years and will have to submit records of all transplants he carries out. Mr Joyce is banned from taking part in transplants for two years.

Sir Robert Kilpatrick, chairman of the GMC professional conduct committee, said Dr

actions in saving the lives of my patients represent misconduct, then the moon really is made of cheese."

Delivering the committee's judgement, Sir Robert told Mr Bewick: "It is your personal and professional tragedy that your conduct has brought into disrepute the practice of renal transplant surgery in the United Kingdom which you had done much to encourage."

Mr Joyce had been wrong to assume he could devote his professional responsibilities to his patients did not die, and are fit and well today living a full and happy life. All the four donors are fit and well without significant complications.

"Some would allow a patient to die before they would accept an unrelated donor. My conscience does not allow such a view. If these

Continued on page 24, col 2

High stakes, page 6
Leading article, page 15

Hopes rise of end to prison siege

By Ronald Faux
and Ruth Gledhill

THERE was hope last night that the siege of Strangeways prison in Manchester was moving into its final stage as more inmates abandoned their protest.

Earlier the prison's governor described the "explosion of evil" that led to the unprecedented violence and destruction, the death of a remand prisoner and injury to 50 other prisoners and 19 prison officers.

Last night, after negotiators persuaded about 25 prisoners to surrender, the number of those determined still to defy the prison authorities had dwindled to fewer than 20, according to some reports. The Home Office, however, put the figure at "fewer than 40", adding: "I am not aware of any injuries among those who came out today."

With some inmates remaining on the prison roof, Mr Brenden O'Friel, the governor, speaking for the first time since the riots erupted four days ago, said: "We are dealing with something the size and magnitude of which is unequalled."

Mr Tony Gibbons, aged 19, and Mr Alain Mekloufi, aged 27, both of Oldham, who were held in Strangeways at the weekend, appeared before Oldham magistrates on monitoring charges yesterday.

Their lawyers said they had both witnessed horrific scenes. Mr Gibbons, who limped into court with an arm leg injuries, had seen three bodies hanging from internal balconies. Mr Robert Vining, his solicitor, said, adding that his client had been attacked by four men who burst into his cell.

"He has seen sights he never wants to see again. He saw at least three bodies hanging, one of which was a 17-year-old boy. He never wants to see the inside of a prison again."

In an adjoining court Mr Mekloufi was said to have been locked in his cell as smoke billowed under the door. He was desperately crying for help and was released only when someone beat the door down, Mr Michael Cheetham, his solicitor, said.

"What he saw was an horrific and terrifying experience. He is now a jibbering wreck," Mr Cheetham added.

Mr Gibbons was further remanded in custody. Mr Mekloufi was put on probation.

Continued on page 24, col 2

Governor's statement, page 5
Abusing the abusers, page 14

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Singer dies

Nuclear Egypt
There are strong indications that, along with a number of other Islamic states, Egypt is close to achieving nuclear capability and the CIA is investigating an Argentine-Egyptian nuclear co-operation project

Page 12

Sarah Vaughan, the American jazz singer who was once described by Ella Fitzgerald as the most talented singer in the world today, has died at her home in California, aged 66.

Obituary, page 16

Law results

The Law Society's Final

Examination, Winter 1990 re-

sults will be published in *The*

Times tomorrow. Copies will

be on sale this evening at

10.00 at Victoria, Charing

Cross and Kings Cross sta-

tions and at Leicester Square.

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THE QUALIFIERS

Hong Kong told of citizenship by points

By Philip Webster

Chief Political Correspondent

ABOUT 20,000 key Hong Kong businesspeople will qualify for British passports under the Government's nationality scheme for the colony, outlined yesterday.

The Government's suggested plan to give citizenship to 50,000 heads of household identifies four separate sections who will benefit.

By far the largest is the general allocation scheme under which 36,200 people, or about 70 per cent of the total, from a wide range of walks of life who are felt to have an important role in maintaining the prosperity and successful administration of Hong Kong would obtain passports.

They would come from seven broad categories - business and management, accounting, engineering, information services, medicine and science, law and education. The disciplined service

section would provide 7,000 places for people working in the Hong Kong Prisons Department, Customs and Excise, fire services, air force, immigration department, the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, uniformed members of the garrison and the operations department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The sensitive service section would give up to 6,300 places to people who, in the course of serving Hong Kong or United Kingdom interests in a civilian or military role, have been "exposed to special considerations and special factors during the course of their duties." These will include senior police officers, senior civil servants, journalists, and others considered to be in "vulnerable" positions.

The "key entrepreneurs section" would provide up to 500 places for "well-known and respected entrepreneurs" with an

established reputation for large-scale investment and employment in the territory, whose departure would do much to undermine confidence. Candidates for the general and disciplined service sections will be determined by a points system in which age, experience and educational qualifications will be key factors.

The maximum points available would be age (200), experience (150), education and training (150), special circumstances (150), proficiency in English (50), British links (50) and community service (50), a total of 800 points.

Under the age qualification maximum points would be given to those in the 30-40 age group, that which is most likely to emigrate. Points will decrease below the age of 30, and after 40, and people aged 51 or more would lose points up to a maximum of 200 lost points for those aged 60 and above. The experience

factor would allow 10 points to be given for each year of relevant working experience up to a maximum of 15 years.

For businesses the points would also take account of earnings as a measure of success and value to Hong Kong.

Under the education factor up to 50 points would be given for qualifications obtained during general education, a further 50 for basic vocational and professional qualifications and 50 more for post-vocational training.

Up to 50 points could be scored for British links on the basis of connections with the United Kingdom, including residence, education, substantial investments, close relatives settled here, for service with British firms or for civilian or military service with the Government or Hong Kong organizations.

Under the key entrepreneurs section the Governor would invite those whom he considered might be qualified to submit an applica-

tion. It would be open to others who wished to be considered under this scheme to indicate their interest on an application form submitted under the general scheme.

The general allocation scheme will cover the following seven categories: Business and management (managers and administrators; business professionals; business and administration associates professionals) 342,800 (61 per cent).

Accounting 12,500 (5 per cent).

Engineering (engineers and related professionals; architects; planners and surveyors; engineer-associate professionals [air traffic controllers]) 57,300 (10 per cent).

Information services (information science professionals [computer programmers]; news editors and journalists) 10,300 (6 per cent).

Medicine and science (medical doctors; physical and life science

professionals [chemists and physicists]; nurses and midwives; other medical professionals [dentists and pharmacists]; health associate professionals [physiotherapists and radiographers]) 44,700 (3 per cent).

Law (legal professionals; legal associate professionals) 3,700 (1 per cent).

Education (teaching professionals [post-secondary, for example university and polytechnic]; educational administrators [secondary school principals, etc]; other teaching personnel [secondary and primary]) 52,700 (9 per cent).

The Government emphasized that the outline published yesterday was an explanation of the scheme it had in mind and not the final scheme that will be submitted by the Governor of Hong Kong.

Colin Holmes, page 14
Leading article, page 15

LONDON REACTION

China Town greets Bill with weary resignation

By Libby Jakes

HONG KONG Chinese in Britain last night greeted the publication of the Nationalities Bill with pragmatic resignation.

It was the same reaction with which they greeted the Sino-British Joint Declaration six years ago, outlining the colony's political structure after 1997.

There are about 200,000 ethnic Chinese in Britain, the majority of them from Hong Kong, and concentrated in London and the South-east.

The Nationalities Bill was "better than nothing" said the Rev Gilbert Lee, who came to London from Hong Kong two years ago as chaplain to the 100-strong Chinese congregation at St Martin's in the Fields, the parish church of China Town.

"I want to remain neutral, and I recognize that in these situations there is a difference between what the Government should do and what it could do," he said. His congregation was by no means united on the question of granting the right of abode in Britain to Hong Kong citizens.

"There is a section of the Chinese community here that is worried by the prospect of further immigration, and the competition it will create," Mr Lee said. "These people have been here perhaps 30 years and worked hard to set up their restaurant or laundrette, and are naturally conservative.

"But there are also those who want to bring over other members of their family to help in the business, not to mention the students and young professionals who want

passports because of what they could face when they return to Hong Kong. It is very complicated."

Mr Gideon Yung, aged 35, is a postgraduate research student at Christ Church College, Oxford. He went to the House of Commons yesterday just as he has done on several occasions when his native Hong Kong has been the subject of debate, since he came to Britain five years ago.

He also expressed resignation, but described it as an infuriating symptom of the overwhelming and inescapable weakness of the Hong Kong Chinese.

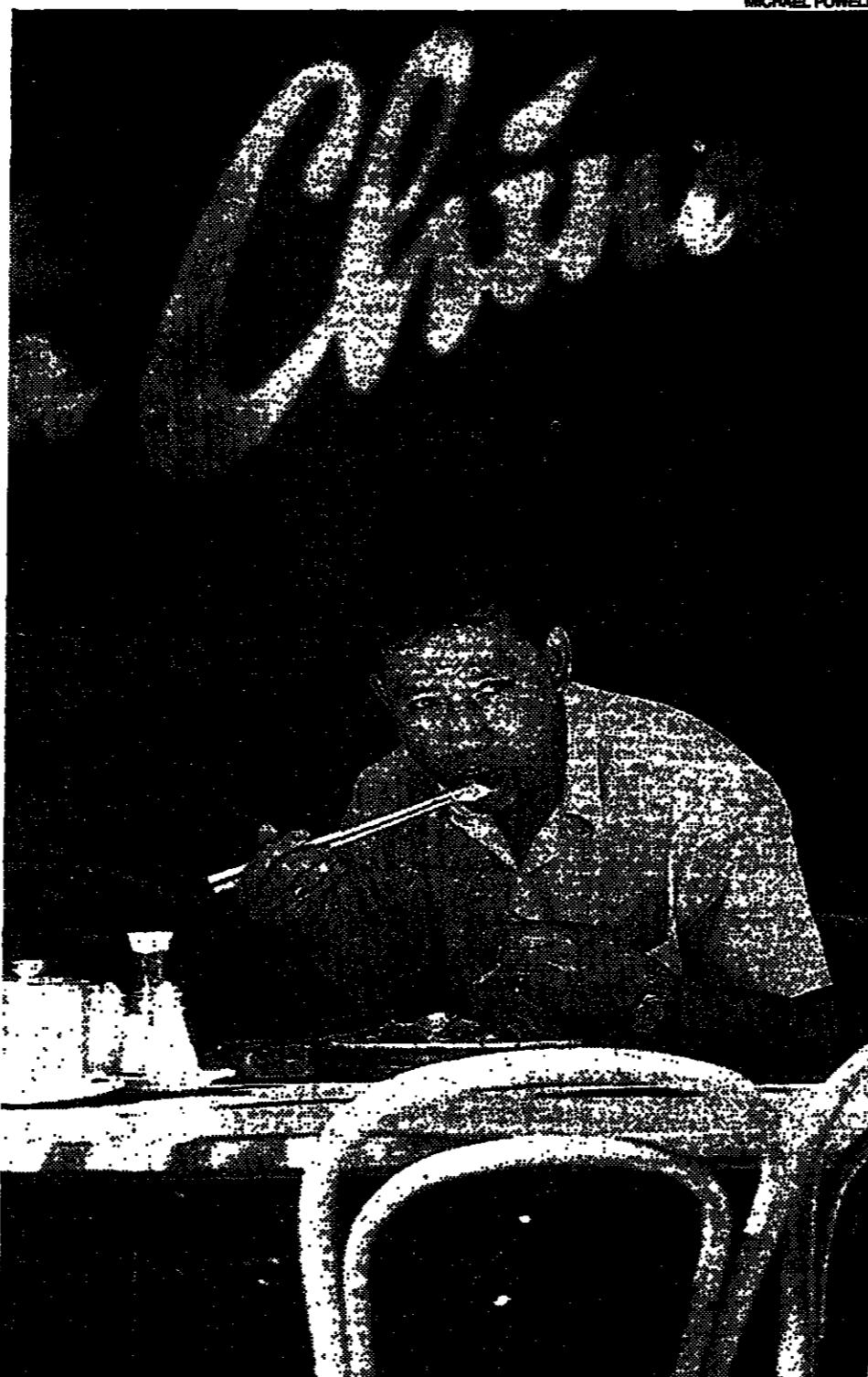
"I do not like to hear that we have been 'sold down the river', because it sounds so passive, when we are very angry at being betrayed," he said.

"There is nothing we do about it. The British Government made it clear to us that we could have the Joint Declaration or nothing, and of course that document is better than nothing. We are in the same situation again; we have to take what they have arranged."

Mr Yung is the spokesman for Hong Kong Link, a London-based lobby group for the democratization of Hong Kong, and a leader of the campaign for passports to be given to all its citizens.

He said that none of the 150 members of his extended family living in the colony wanted to leave, although he reiterated the familiar paradox that they would "right to the death" for the right to do so.

"Ten years ago, Hong Kong was a parking lot, where you



Food for thought: A diner ponders the future during a lunch break in China Town

Charities face code on linking grants to policy

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

THE £2 billion taxpayers spend annually on voluntary bodies, including thousands of charities, should be more clearly linked to the achievement of government policies, ministers said yesterday.

The proposal, which sparked immediate concern yesterday among some leading charities, is one of seven principles which ministers may use in future when deciding on funding applications from more than 10,000 voluntary bodies at present receiving Whitehall grants.

Taxpayer support for the voluntary sector has always broadly reflected government policy but until now ministers have not felt the need to codify the assumption. They are also seeking far better monitoring of the way in which grants are spent and scrupulous adherence to the rules barring party political campaigning by government-supported groups.

The proposed criteria were announced by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, after the publication yesterday of an efficiency scrutiny of Whitehall funding of schemes, ranging from large-scale government job training programmes to citizens' advice bureaux.

To the satisfaction of voluntary bodies, the report's main criticisms were centred on those paying grants, not on the recipients.

Departments, the report said, were successfully using voluntary bodies to deliver large-scale programmes like employment training and the Youth Training Scheme, but were less good at supporting smaller organizations and projects. Officials were not clear enough what the funds

were meant to achieve and tended to respond to ideas in an ad hoc way, rather than seeing the extent to which proposals fitted in with "key policy objectives".

The report, the biggest efficiency investigation ever conducted by Whitehall, also voiced concern that officials responsible for indefinite grants - about 63 per cent of the total - were sometimes unconvincing that the money being spent on policy priorities.

"Departments were reluctant to question the relevance of the work of bodies which had received grant for a long time because of the political sensitivities of ending a grant," it said.

In one of its few main criticisms of the sector, described as the "third force" in British society, the report urged voluntary groups to do more to discover whether they met "customers' needs".

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations welcomed the report as a vindication of the criticisms the sector had made for many years

about the Government's supervision of funding.

It said, however, that attempts to make funding reflect government policy more closely could undermine the independence of the voluntary sector, its "great strength".

"There is a danger the sector could become a simple extension of government policy. This could undermine its ability to take up issues which it is not handling, but urgently need addressing," Miss Usha Prashar, the council's director, said.

Organizations "sub-contracted" to deliver government services had clearly to reflect departmental policy.

Other voluntary groups, however, provided important public services where they acted as the "conscience of the Government".

Miss Prashar also said she

Clarke agrees to monitoring of NHS standards

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE Government agreed in principle last night to setting up a body to monitor clinical standards in the health service after the introduction of the reforms next year.

The move was seen as a significant concession from Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, who has argued that there was no need for a national inspectorate to oversee standards.

He has maintained that quality standards should be set at local level in contracts drawn up between health authorities and hospitals.

After a two-hour meeting with representatives of the Royal Medical and Nursing Colleges, however, Mr Clarke appeared to give in to their demands for a national organization to monitor the care of all NHS patients in self-governing hospitals, directly managed or private hospitals.

Further discussions will be held on the terms of reference of the new body and how it will operate.

The colleges' leaders agreed last night that the move was a significant step forward, although it did not address their main concern about the service in which the health service reforms are to be introduced.

Miss Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said the RCM had consistently advocated an independent inspectorate to guarantee standards of care.

"Today's proposal from the Health Secretary is a significant move in our direction," she said. She said, however,

that Mr Clarke still needed to provide assurances that the body would be a credible organization with the necessary teeth. "Our concerns are about the detail and how it is resourced."

The new body is expected to be made up of representatives from the royal medical and nursing colleges under a lay chairman appointed by the Secretary of State.

Its role could be similar to the Health Advisory Service, which now advises the Government on standards of care for the elderly and the mentally ill in both the health and social services.

The concession, however, is unlikely to appear in the 25 organizations including the royal colleges which last week called for a three-week pilot study on the reforms in two regional health authorities.

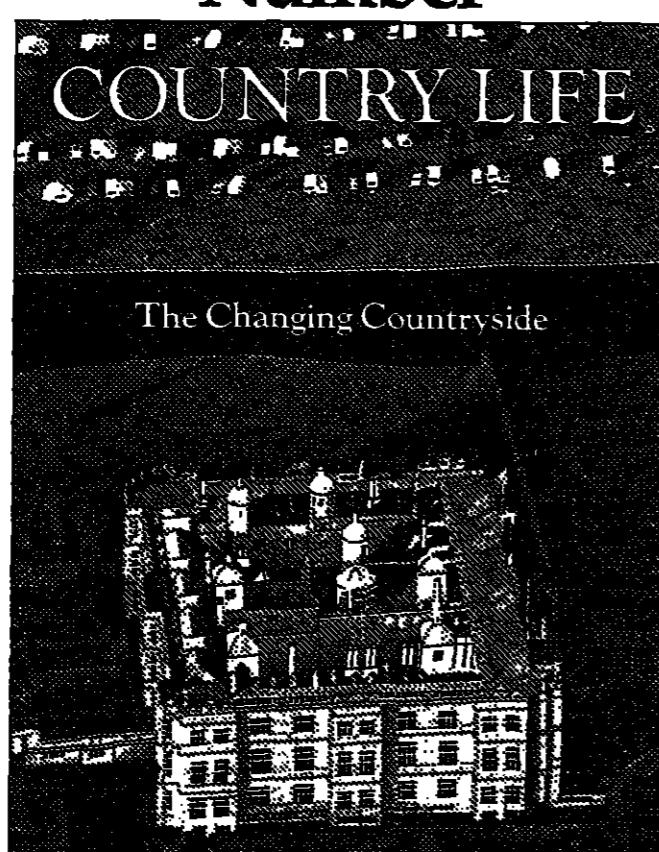
Miss Hancock said that these concerns had been put forward yesterday afternoon to Mr Clarke, but said that he had made little response.

Earlier Mr Clarke announced that he had asked the General Medical Council and private sector representatives to look at ways of developing medical audit in the independent health care sector.

The move which flew in with last night's concession comes in the wake of concerns about standards in private hospitals which were highlighted during the cases recently investigated by the General Medical Council on the sale of human organs.

Mr Clarke said that the Human Organ Transplant Act should stamp out these practices.

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Mr Waddington: Efficiency proposals

Fugitive guilty of handling cash from biggest raid

By Michael Horsell

FREDERICK Foreman, who was expelled as an "unwanted alien" from his self-imposed exile in Spain last year, was convicted yesterday of handling £363,000 of the proceeds of Britain's biggest cash raid.

He was cleared, however, of taking part in the £6 million robbery at the Security Express headquarters in Shoreditch, east London, seven years ago this week.

Foreman, who was said to have boasted about the robbery to Spanish police, was also convicted of making an untrue statement to procure a passport in the name of George Watters. He will be sentenced at the Central Criminal Court today.

Mr Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, had said that Foreman — believing himself safe from the 1985 treaty between Britain and Spain which precludes retrospective extradition — had confessed his part in the raid to two Spanish police officers. But Mr John Mathew, QC, for

the defence, accused the Spanish officers of fabricating the confession under pressure from British police wishing to get Foreman out of Spain.

The prosecution case had also relied on the sudden "rags to riches" improvement in Foreman's finances since the robbery.

Foreman had less than £75 in the bank before the raid and was granted a rent reduction on the council flat he shared with his wife Maureen at Starleigh Way, Southwark, south London.

In the months that followed, Foreman banked more than £363,000, most of which was transferred to Spain.

During the raid, a gang of masked men poured petrol over Mr James Acock, a Security Express employee, and forced him to hand over keys to a strongroom before escaping with £5,961,097, which weighed five tons.

Foreman's life history as a sometime boxer, publican and member of the Kray gang reads like an impressive entry from a Who's Who of the post-war underworld.

In 1948, he and 10 other miscreants were ordered to be taken to the cells at the Central Criminal Court so they could experience the feel of life behind bars.

Then aged 16, Foreman and his accomplices had been bound over for wrecking a Methodist youth club armed in revenge for being called "spivs" and "vobblies" when they gate-crashed a wedding party there a week earlier.

Sir Gerald Dodson, the Recorder, told the 11 youths that the experience should serve as lifelong lesson and added: "When you come out look up to the sky and be thankful you can see it."

Foreman ignored the warning and embarked on a career of villainy, notably as a bullying enforcer for the Krays.

In 1969, he was jailed for 10 years for helping the twins dispose of the body of Jack "The Hat" McVitie.

In the same year, he and Reginald Kray were acquitted of murdering Frank "Mad Axeman" Mitchell, who had escaped from Dartmoor Prison in 1966. Foreman was

released from prison in 1975 and was quickly re-arrested, only to be cleared of murdering Thomas "Ginger" Mark.

After the Security Express robbery, he hastened to the so-called Costa del Crime in Spain, a familiar figure in silk suit and mandatory sunglasses, where he bought a portfolio of luxury apartments in the Alcazaba district of Marbella.

He was unceremoniously ejected from his Spanish haven last year largely because he loved to boast of his criminal exploits.

When questioned by Spanish "detectives" about other matters, he bragged that the robbery had been a "clean job" in the sense that nobody had been hurt.

Foreman felt confident he would be able to continue his sunshine and sangria lifestyle because Britain's extradition treaty with Spain was not retrospective. The Spanish decided nevertheless to eject him as an undesirable alien and upon his arrival at Heathrow airport he was arrested by jubilant British detectives.

His share of the proceeds was carefully deposited in a number of foreign bank accounts, some specially opened for the purpose.

An underworld tip led to the arrest of a number of men suspected of involvement in the Security Express robbery, including John and James Knight.

Foreman frequently visited the Costa del Sol villa owned by their brother Ronnie Knight, whom Foreman is said to have implicated in the robbery.

In June 1985, John Knight and Terence Perkins were both jailed for 22 years after being found guilty of robbery. John Horsell was sentenced to 12 years for robbery; James Knight to eight years for handling the stolen cash, and William Hickson six years for handling.

The following year, Scotland Yard issued warrants for the arrest of others they believed to be involved. Foreman was on the list, which also included Ronnie Knight, who has so far resisted extradition.

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He was unceremoniously ejected from his Spanish haven last year largely because he loved to boast of his criminal exploits.

When questioned by Spanish "detectives" about other matters, he bragged that the robbery had been a "clean job" in the sense that nobody had been hurt.

Foreman felt confident he would be able to continue his sunshine and sangria lifestyle because Britain's extradition treaty with Spain was not retrospective. The Spanish decided nevertheless to eject him as an undesirable alien and upon his arrival at Heathrow airport he was arrested by jubilant British detectives.

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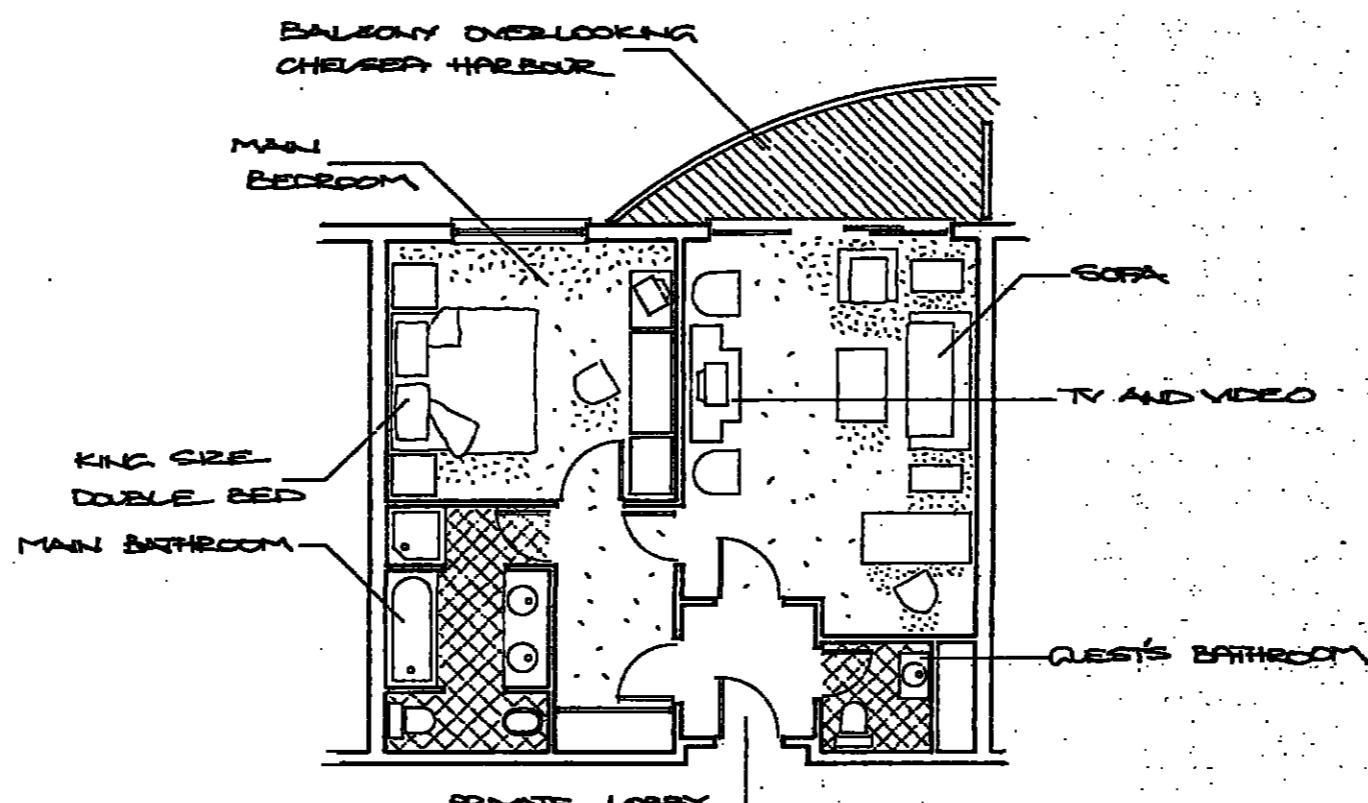
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Tories play poll tax card for votes

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

THE Conservatives yesterday shrugged off the manifest unpopularity of the poll tax and made it a central feature of their campaign to keep alive their dwindling strength in Britain's council chambers.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, unveiling its "battle plan" for the May 3 elections for more than 5,000 seats in England, Scotland and Wales, said: "The community charge and the new system of local government [finance] are going to figure very strongly indeed."

However, Mr Baker is apparently braced for a further blow to the Government's fortunes even though the Conservatives start from the low base of 727 losses when the same seats were last contested, four years ago.

He declined to offer any forecast of the outcome before eventually saying that he did not expect the party to lose any seats and that it was going on to the offensive to win control of more councils.

Mr Baker and Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, made it clear that the Conservative high command has decided to try to make a virtue of a policy that has unmasked Tory back-benchers and cost the party dearly in the opinion polls.

Under the slogan, "Conservative Councils Cost You Less", the campaign will ask voters to choose between Tory value for money and the "extravagance and waste" of the Opposition parties.

It will attempt to pin blame for high poll tax charges squarely on Labour and Liberal Democrat councils and make plain that only the Conservatives can offer relief from crippling bills.

Some Conservative MPs will doubt the wisdom of drawing attention to the most unpopular aspect of Govern-



Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, addressing the launch of its local government election campaign, with Mr Chris Patten

ment policy but ministers can argue that the rare conjoining of national and local political concerns leaves them with little option but to gamble on a bold approach.

Mr Patten sought to drive home this message at the launch, in London, as he said: "Anyone who thinks of voting Labour as a protest would be making the most expensive protest of their lives."

The choice was between voting Tory for a low community charge and "paying through the nose" for the privilege of voting Labour.

Mr Patten and Mr Baker pointed to big differences in overspending between Tory and Labour councils, with

Labour metropolitan districts overspending by more than four times as much as Conservative districts.

In London, voters could save themselves an average of £3 a week by voting Tory.

The message was undermined by a mass of charts, posters and glossy leaflets highlighting Tory thrift and Labour profligacy in areas such as rubbish collection, street cleaners and education.

These included the innovation of the "chargeometer", illustrating the fact that the top 10 poll taxes were to be found in Labour authorities, while six of the bottom 10 were in Tory areas.

"Labour offers the miser-

able socialist double of high community charges and rotten services," Mr Patten said.

Mr Baker said that the only way to bring down the community charge was by voting Conservative.

Both ministers accused Labour of being "cynical and dishonest" by not explaining how its "roof tax" would operate.

Mr Baker identified the Labour-run councils of Brent, Ealing and Lambeth as Tory targets, together with the SLD strongholds of Richmond and Sutton. Attention will also be directed at results in Bradford, Trafford, Wandsworth and Westminster, where the Tories have wafer-thin majorities.

Of 4,538 seats for election in England and Wales, the Tories

are defending 1,439; Labour, 2,238; the Liberal Democrats and the SDP, 718; Independents, 124; and others, 22.

Of the 524 Scottish seats to be contested, the Tories are defending 62; Labour, 223; the Liberal Democrats and the SDP, 41; Independents, 107; the SNP, 37; and others, 52.

The launch of the London arm of the Conservative campaign was attended by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, who said that more than £6 billion was being spent on road improvements and new rolling stock for Network SouthEast and the London Underground.

Letters, page 15

Capping threatens teachers and home helps' jobs says Labour

By Our Political Correspondent

THOUSANDS of teachers and home helps could lose their jobs because of the decision to cap community charges in 20 local authorities, the Labour Party said yesterday in a counter-attack on the Government's latest attempt to curb council spending. It also said that schools would have to wait longer for repairs and essential main-

nance and that there would be fewer books for children and a loss of nursery places.

The Opposition riposte came 24 hours after Mr Chris Patten had advised Tory MPs to brace themselves for "a parade of bleeding stumps in a number of local authorities". The Secretary of State for the Environment had insisted that the councils affected could make reductions of up to £99 per

adult in charge levels and still maintain a "reasonable" level of services.

As the Conservatives disclosed, however, that they intended to make the poll tax a central feature of their campaign for the country-wide council elections on May 3, Labour sought to turn the clampdown on high-spending councils to its advantage.

Mr Jack Straw, its chief education

spokesman, said: "If the cuts fall proportionately on the local teaching forces, then a total of 2,875 teachers may lose their jobs."

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's chief health spokesman, said that if capping was applied *pro rata* to social security budgets it would be disastrous for the elderly and the handicapped. Total spending would be cut by £28.49 million, requiring the axing of 3,500 home-help jobs.

Mr David Blunkett, an Opposition local government spokesman, disputed the Government's estimate of the administrative costs of rebilling charge-payers in the 20 authorities, saying they could be £38 million rather than the £6 million-£7 million figure quoted by Mr Patten.

Mr Patten defended his decision and hinted that next year there might be less need for him to order councils to trim their spending.

There was, he said, little treatment available for such people in jail.

"Sex offenders in prisons like Strangeways are segregated in ways that encourage them to deny their offending," he told the British Association of Social Workers' conference in Co Down.

"Probation programmes outside prison aim to protect potential victims while challenging the offending behaviour."

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Jail riot was an 'explosion of violence'

By Ruth Gledhill

THE governor of Strangeways prison said yesterday that the riot there was an "explosion of violence" which was "the worst incident in the history of the prison service".

Mr Brendan O'Friel said: "We are dealing with something the size and magnitude of which I think is quite unequalled in our history."

Mr O'Friel, who was still unable to account for all the inmates, described the incident as an "act of violence of a size and magnitude that is quite difficult to comprehend".

He said: "What we know about the injuries that the prisoners have inflicted on each other is further evidence of what I would describe as the explosion of evil that took place on Sunday."

He refused to comment on possible warning that may have been given.

Speaking to the media in a house next to the prison, he said: "We have achieved much more than I dared hope when I saw the situation at noon on Sunday."

He could not, however, put a figure to the number of prisoners still inside. It was a "much more manageable number" but the prison was still checking where everybody was.

Mr O'Friel said he was an "eternal optimist" and was determined to get Strangeways back on its feet.

He added: "I have had some experience at looking at damaged prisons before. I was fortunate enough to go over to Risley the day after the disturbance last year. "We have been dealing in my view with probably the worst incident in the history of the Prison Service."

He described his actions since the riot began: "At about 11.15 on Sunday morning I was driving not far from my home in the opposite direction to the prison when my radiopager went off.

"I returned home quite fast,

rang the prison and got the news that we were in very serious trouble.

"I headed for the prison at maximum speed. When I got there, which must have been close on noon, I found a situation where I think 1,500 prisoners were

Call not to jail sex offenders

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

MORE sexual offenders should be punished in the community to reduce the risk of them committing new crimes and to help the management of prisons, a conference was told yesterday.

Offenders are more likely to reform if they are subjected to intensive probation orders, Mr Gordon Read, chairman of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said yesterday.

There was, he said, little treatment available for such people in jail.

"Sex offenders in prisons like Strangeways are segregated in ways that encourage them to deny their offending," he told the British Association of Social Workers' conference in Co Down.

"Probation programmes outside prison aim to protect potential victims while challenging the offending behaviour."

'Patient wanted to save his life, the donor to save his child'

By David Sapsted

FERHAT USTA, a Muslim living in Istanbul, was desperate to sell his kidney to raise money for an operation for his ailing daughter. Colin Benton, a Jew living in Haifa, was desperate for a new kidney to save his life.

The Times can now disclose how these men, who were never to exchange a word with each other, ended up on adjoining operating tables at a private hospital in St John's Wood in London.

It is a story of two individuals whose despair led to their involvement with three prominent British doctors, an illegal Anglo-Turkish kidney brokerage business and a system of illicit financial arrangements.

COLIN BENTON'S STORY Colin Benton, aged 57, an accountant with joint British-Israeli citizenship, had been suffering from kidney disease for 12 years when in January 1988 he and his wife arrived in

London looking for a kidney transplant. They stayed at a flat found for them by the Israeli Embassy. Mr Benton began receiving dialysis at the Harley Street Clinic, hoping that a suitable cadaver's kidney from the United States the normal source of organs for transplant into private patients in the UK, would become available.

As the weeks passed and Mr Benton's condition deteriorated, the couple were referred to the Harley Street surgery of Dr Raymond Crockett, a prominent nephrologist in private practice and medical director of the National Kidney Centre, a dialysis centre run as charitable trust in Finchley. In recent years it has dealt almost exclusively with wealthy overseas patients.

Mr Benton started receiving dialysis there but the cadaveric kidney still did not arrive. According to Mrs Rochelle Benton, Dr Crockett then said

that a transplant from a live, unrelated donor was possible but that it would cost an extra £20,000.

"I didn't know his (the donor's) name. I did know it was a Turkish man whose daughter was very ill and needed money for an operation," she says, adding that Dr Crockett had told her "not to breathe a word" about the fact the kidney was coming from a donor quite unrelated to her husband.

By now, Mr Benton could neither walk nor drive. The couple agreed to the transplant.

FERHAT USTA'S STORY Ferhat Usta, aged 34, a print worker, knew he was breaking a Turkish law banning any trade in five organs when he placed advertisements in the Istanbul newspaper, *Hurriyet*, offering his kidney for sale. His wife opposed him but Mr Usta, who was earning £10 a week, decided that selling a part of his body was the only

way he could raise money for an operation on his daughter, Serrin, now aged nine, who was suffering from TB.

"After the advertisements were repeated for four days in the *Hurriyet*, Riza Nur Kunter (a retired naval officer) phoned me saying he was interested," Mr Usta says. "He said he wanted the kidney for his youngest brother, Ata Nur Kunter, residing in London. I agreed on a price of six million lira (about £2,500) because I thought I was doing a service to a fellow Turk, another Muslim."

Mr Usta flew to London in July 1988, bearing a letter from the National Kidney

then the centre's administrative director, was asked to type a letter to the manager of the National Westminster Bank branch at St John's Wood where Dr Crockett and his wife Elizabeth had a joint account.

The letter read: "Dear Sir, re. cheque 002109: Mr A. Kunter. Please enable Mr Ata Kunter to collect the funds, £3,500 in cash, so a refund may be made to a patient to return overseas on Sunday." It was signed Dr R.E. Crockett.

According to a later conversation between Mr Westall and Mr Kunter — a conversation tape-recorded by The Times without the latter's knowledge — Mr Usta was then driven to the Humans Wellington before Mr Kunter went to the bank and collected the money.

THE OPERATION

In hospital, Mr Usta was seen by Mr Michael Bewick, a urologist at Guy's Hospital, who wanted Mr Usta to remove Ferhat Usta's kidney. Mr Bewick to transplant it into Colin Benton.

On July 16 1988, the transplant went ahead.

EPILOGUE

• Dr Raymond Crockett was struck off yesterday by a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council.

• Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce were found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

• Tunc Kunter, the brother of Riza and Ata Nur Kunter, was sentenced to two years imprisonment in Istanbul last year for organizing the kidney brokerage trade.

• The Humans Wellington was cleared of any involvement in the kidney trade after an investigation by the Bloomsbury Health Authority.

• Ferhat Usta received £2,500 for his kidney, which paid for an operation on his daughter. Her condition has continued to deteriorate, however, and now she cannot walk.

• Colin Benton died on August 28 1988, just over a month after receiving Mr Usta's kidney. Mrs Benton also left with an outstanding £66,000 bill after the operation.

Hearing could cost up to £1m

By John Young

THE hearing, which began on December 4 and lasted, with intervals, for 33 days was the longest, most expensive and probably the most unusual in the history of the General Medical Council.

With a small army of lawyers, including five QCs, legal fees alone must run into several hundred thousand pounds. Add to that the hours spent in researching and preparing the case and the cost of bringing witnesses to London — including the four Turks from Istanbul who were put up in a West End hotel for nearly two weeks — and the total is unlikely to be far short of £1 million.

All prosecution costs will be met by the council which has about 150,000 members who pay an annual subscription of £30. The doctors' costs are likely to be largely met by the Medical Defence Union.

In theory, a doctor does not have to belong to the council but anyone with recognized medical qualifications is obliged to register to practise within the NHS or the armed services and be allowed to prescribe drugs. Hence the ultimate sanction, short of criminal proceedings, is for the council to strike a doctor off the register, which means he effectively loses his livelihood.

The council's most publicized arm is its professional conduct committee, which has powers to apply to the High Court to compel witnesses to attend.

Leading article, page 15



From left: Mr Bewick, Mr Joyce and (foreground) Mr Ferhat Usta, with others who gave evidence

Downfall of a man who dealt in high stakes

By David Sapsted

THE personalities, attitudes and actual involvement of the three prominent physicians who became embroiled in the kidney trade in London have always been markedly different.

From the start to the inglorious end, Dr Raymond Crockett forceably and repeatedly denied any knowledge of, or involvement in, the kidney trade. "My head is held high; I will have no trouble at the Pearly Gates," he once told The Times. Yet it was Dr Crockett whom the General Medical Council decided had knowingly participated in paid-for transplants.

Mr Michael Bewick, on the other hand, has always been a surgeon in a hurry. Nobody in Britain, perhaps nobody in Europe, has successfully conducted more kidney transplants. "We must get off our backsides and just get on with it," he once told the British Transplantation Society.

The role of the third member of the group, Mr Michael Joyce, aged 46, had always been peripheral. A widely-respected urologist at Guy's Hospital, London, he broke down at the hearing when he

accepted that he had not checked that the Turks whose kidneys he had been called in to remove for transplantation by Mr Bewick into Dr Crockett's wealthy foreign patients had not been paid.

Yesterday's decision by the GMC to strike off Dr Crockett appears to mark the end of a career that, in the 1980s, gave him the trappings of wealth, including a £750,000 home overlooking the Thames at Henley, a villa in Sardinia and a ski chalet in Switzerland.

Nobody knows how much the quiet-spoken Ulsterman made from his work as a nephrologist, specializing in treating wealthy or state-sponsored kidney patients from abroad. It is clear, however, that the stakes were enormous between July 1 and December 31, 1988, the Turkish embassy alone was billed by Dr Crockett for more than £517,000 for the treatment of about 18 patients receiving dialysis at the National Kidney Centre, a charitable institution in Finchley, north London, of which he was medical director until last summer.

Surprisingly, Dr Crockett did not give evidence at the

GMC hearing. Questions about the identity of the paymaster behind the Kunter brothers' kidney brokerage operation and about why Dr Crockett authorized at least one payment of £3,500 to Ata Nur Kunter, his former interpreter, from his personal account were never put to him.

Questions about allegations that the nephrologist suggested to one kidney sufferer that he could buy a transplant organ from an unrelated donor and about an advertisement bearing his name, offering to buy a kidney for £10,000 were among many others never put to him.

According to associates, Dr Crockett is a very private man, and Mr Bewick once described the 51-year-old nephrologist as someone who "never appears to be telling you the full truth". His main pleasures away from work centre on skiing and spending time with his five children, aged between four and 11.

For Mr Bewick, who is 53, money seems never to have been a factor. If, in his determination to harvest cadaveric kidneys and do transplants, he

has left in his wake some frustrated colleagues, he has also restored to health hundreds of chronically-ill patients. They owe him their lives.

Yet it was Mr Bewick's dedication to "just getting on with it" that, not once, but twice, led to his involvement in paid-for kidneys. On both occasions, he said, he was duped: in 1985, when he conducted a transplant from a paid donor from the Indian sub-continent, and in 1988, when he became involved in the Turkish kidney trade.

Colleagues believe that it was his single-minded devotion to transplants — to the excision of such administrative niceties as checking adequately that donors were not paid — that led to his downfall.

Dr Chisholm Ogg, head of renal services at Guy's, said:

"He is totally devoted to his trade. He really does not do or think anything else but transplantation. It is this enormous commitment which makes him such a hard act to follow and has made him quite unpopular among some of his transplantation colleagues. He is not in it for the money. If a

patient ran out of money, he would still say: 'Come to me'."

Unlike Dr Crockett, Mr Bewick has always been much involved in NHS work, frequently working up to 20 hours a day, and his home, at Sydenham Hill, south-east London, is close to Dulwich Hospital, his main base.

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Opposition onslaught on loans guillotine

STUDENTS

The Government's proposal to push through consideration of Lords changes to its plans for student loans in six hours was bitterly attacked by Opposition MPs in the Commons yesterday.

They described as cynical and stupid the guillotine motion which meant that debate on Lords amendments to the Education (Student Loans) Bill had to end last night.

However, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the House had now reached the "wrap-up" stage.

Moving the timetable motion, Mr MacGregor said that the Government had responded to points raised in most of the amendments.

The Commons and Lords had devoted 90 hours to debate on a list of four clauses and two schedules, including about 40 hours in standing committee. More than 360 amendments had been tabled.

These figures refute any suggestion that the Government had deliberately kept the Bill short in an attempt to prevent discussion on the finer points of the scheme.

It was important not to have pointless repetition. The motion would help to ensure that the scheme was ready for the start of the next academic year. The Government would soon move to put regulations before Parliament, and then more preparatory work would be needed before the scheme became fully operational.

Students would not welcome being denied a loan because of

Bill would abolish charge

The Commons gave a first reading yesterday to a private member's Bill providing for a referendum on the abolition of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988, which introduced the community charge or poll tax.

Mr John Hedges (Croydon North-East, Lab), seeking leave under the 10-minute rule to bring in the Poll Tax (Abolition) Bill, said that the poll tax was immoral and would make the rich richer and the poor poorer. The poorest had to pay the same as millionaires or millionairesses. The blame for the tax rested solely on the Prime Minister's shoulders. She and her Cabinet were the tax dodgers in this case.

COI agency under way

The Central Office of Information is to become an executive agency from today. Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in a Commons written reply. He said that he had set demanding targets against which performance was to be measured. They would ensure that the COI continued to improve its efficiency.

11,173 'mad COW' cases

Since bovine spongiform encephalopathy, mad cow disease, was first identified in November 1986 there had been 10,409 cases in England and 764 cases in Wales, 11,173 cases in all. Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Easter recess debates on a variety of topics.
Senate (11): Debate on EC border controls on people, and on health controls and the internal market. Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, second reading.

silencing. The objective of the Bill was to facilitate expansion of higher education, particularly by providing more money for students, and to lighten the load of student maintenance support on their parents and on taxpayers.

Students would have access to a 25 per cent increase in resources this autumn, compared with the present grant. The net increase to students' budgets from that time should be £135 million. That was a mark of the generosity of the scheme.

Mr Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, accused the Government of deliberately withdrawing the threat of a guillotine to lure the Lords, then still considering amendments, into thinking there would not be one.

To introduce it now was a cynical and stupid manoeuvre.

The Government was allowing only two-and-a-half hours to debate 15 or possibly 17 amendments, 10 minutes an amendment. "It happens to be that some of the more significant areas raised by their amendments deserve more than 10 minutes of discussion."

They had involved parliamentary scrutiny of the scheme, new powers to force university and college administrators to co-operate without adequate compensation, the position of disabled students, the marketing and financing of loans, to students under 18. Some of the key areas had never been discussed in the Commons.

Conservative MPs were entranced, but one word should wake them from this if they had an instinct for self-interest and survival. It was "Baker", because the Bill had the curse of Baker upon it.

When Conservative MPs cheered, Mr Straw added: "I am glad they can laugh before the gallows."

Mr Baker (now chairman of the Conservative Party) had created teacher shortages and a collapse of teacher morale never experienced before. The man who had invented the poll tax had cut and run and it was the same man who was cutting and running on the student loans scheme.

Those who needed help the most would be denied it as a result of changing housing benefit and a cut in the real value of the grant. The scheme, designed by Mr Baker, to be run by the banks, was in administrative chaos. The Government was even having to resort to setting up a nationalized corporation to run the scheme.

"This loan scheme is morally offensive. It takes money from those who need it and gives it to those who do not want it and wastes millions in administrative expenses." It was born, he said, of arrogance and incompetence.

• **THE SPEAKER** (Mr Bernard Weatherill) told MPs before the start of the debate that one amendment passed by the Lords had to be rejected. He said that they had to disagree with the change which would allow students receiving loans to get housing benefit because it involved a change on public revenue.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said that the ruling would do enormous damage to the credibility of the House. The issue was crucially important to students.

Mr Straw urged the Speaker to reconsider the decision. The amendment did not involve spending new money, but a continuation of expenditure already authorized.

'Pill tax' defeat

A MOVE by the Opposition to scrap this year's 3 per cent increase in prescription charges — described as "the pill tax" — was defeated in the Commons late on Tuesday night.

The increase took prescription charges to £3.05, a rise of 1.425 per cent since Labour left office, Mr Peter Clegg, chief Opposition health spokesman, told MPs. He said the National Pharmaceutical Association had given him a list of common drugs that could be bought over the counter more cheaply than on prescription.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under

Thatcher 'loopy' on arms

DEFENCE

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, should take the side of Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, and not that of Britain's "loopy" Prime Minister, and oppose modernization of short-range nuclear weapons. Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said at questions.

He said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was totally irrational on this issue, but that the Foreign Secretary, if he was to be at all credible as a candidate for the Tory succession, should take Chancellor Kohl's side.

Which enemy were these weapons aimed at? Was it the President of Czechoslovakia, or the Prime Minister of Poland? Were they aimed at the Soviet troops, whom Mrs Thatcher herself had said should continue to be stationed in East Germany?

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the purpose of all forces, conventional or nuclear, was to deter any possible aggressor.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl agreed that to achieve that in the defence of Germany and Britain, a sensible mix of nuclear and conventional weapons was needed.



Rifkind's 'very small mercy'

SCOTS POLL TAX

vehemently argued until the eleventh hour that Scotland's complaints were bogus.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, had explained that he intended to set up a temporary scheme outside the social security benefits system to provide special payments for those affected. That came after the announcement in the Budget that the upper capital limit for community charge benefit was to rise from £8,000 to £16,000.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people in Scotland will benefit at a cost of £4 million which will come out of the Scottish Office budget of £9.5 billion.

Mr Donald Dewar, shadow Secretary of State, said that it would be ungracious not to welcome the announcement, but he would be more impressed if Mr Rifkind had not

and a limited income perhaps boosted by a small occupational pension.

"If the scheme remains as it is, it will mean that for thousands will turn to disappointment and then to anger."

Mr Rifkind said that no one could say for certain what the final cost of the concession would be, but the best estimates were that it would benefit between 15,000 and 20,000 people, leading to a cost of up to £4 million. If it was slightly less or slightly greater, it would be accommodated.

The £4 million cost of the concession was much exaggerated by the Government. The payments were likely to total less than £2 million and many fewer than 15,000 would benefit. The average annual payment was likely to be well under £100.

The new scheme would do little to help that vulnerable group with modest savings

Letters, page 15

Two or three cheers for the minister

'THREE GRACES'

THE future of the Canova sculpture "The Three Graces" will be decided shortly, with the ending yesterday of the deferral of applications for export licences for works of art, Lord Heseltine, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, told the House of Lords during question time.

Questioned by Lord St John of Fawley (C), a former arts minister, about the future of the sculpture, he said the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry had announced on March 2 that he proposed to take into account private as well as public offers.

"He is considering representations by persons affected by this change of policy and will reach a decision shortly on the Canova and on other export applications deferred until April 4.

"The Barclays brothers have offered to purchase the statue and place it on loan for 20 years to the V & A and a Scottish institution."

Lord Heseltine said that whatever offer was made by the Barclays brothers it was not being made to the Government.

"It seems to many of us, including the arts world and the Museums and Galleries Commission, that that is a much better result for the nation."

Lord Heseltine said that whatever offer was made by the Barclays brothers it was not being made to the Government.

"The offer was to the owners of 'The Three Graces' and it was for them to decide whether 20 years' public display was acceptable."

The offer by Lord Rothschild was a variation on an offer of art in lieu, which had substantial public expenditure implications.

Lady Birk said that £10 million a year was supposed to be put aside by the Treasury for acceptance of in-lieu offers. It had not been used last year and seldom was, so there must be money available. The offer was

of a permanent gift.

Lord Heseltine said that the key to Lord Rothschild's offer was that it was a variation which did not already exist, but was a scheme. That was one of the reasons why further consideration was taking place.

Lord Hutchinson of Lullingstone (Lib Dem) said that export control procedures for heritage items had always been based on the public interest. How was it possible for a minister to change that completely without any previous decision by Parliament?

Lord Heseltine said that the change of policy had not been to restrict, but to expand, the opportunities for retaining artistic objects of virtue in this country.

Bill would abolish charge

The Commons gave a first reading yesterday to a private member's Bill providing for a referendum on the abolition of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988, which introduced the community charge or poll tax.

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Defence under threat

By Sheila Gama, Political Reporter

DELAYS with work on the Trident nuclear missile programme and other defence projects could seriously affect Britain's military competence, the Commons Public Accounts Committee said yesterday.

It found that the £9 billion Trident programme is suffering from staffing and management problems at the Atomic Weapons Establishment installations at Aldermaston and Burghfield, Berkshire.

There have been construction problems with the new A90 warhead production complex at Aldermaston and industrial action at VSEL Barrow, where the submarines are being built.

The Commons defence committee is also preparing a report emphasizing the delays threatened in bringing the first Trident submarines into service.

The cross-party Public Accounts Committee said: "We note that, despite the various difficulties, the ministry's forecast in-service date for the Trident programme remains unchanged. However, we believe that as the contingencies build up, the timelines are eroded by events, so that it increases that there could in practice be delays, if not at the outset then in the later stages of the programme."

It called for prompt and vigorous action, particularly on the staffing and management of the programme.

The committee also said that delays in other

TRIDENT DELAYS

defence equipment projects were harming military effectiveness and pushing up costs. "We are concerned that the number of projects with significant slippages to in-service dates and the impact that these delays have on both operational effectiveness and the costs of maintaining equipment in service."

We urge the ministry to continue to press for realistic targets for in-service dates and to install tighter procedures to ensure those dates are met."

The 1988 statement showed nine projects which were at least two years behind schedule. Among those facing delays or rapidly increasing costs are the EH101 helicopter for the UK and Italian navies; Bates (battlefield artillery target engagement system); and the US jamming system, JTIDS (joint tactical information distribution system).

The report urged the Ministry of Defence to press for realistic targets for completion from contractors, after noting that agreements had to be renegotiated in several of the projects. "This underlines the need for contract conditions which are clearly defined at the outset and properly enforceable", it said.

Committee of Public Accounts, Ninth Report, Ministry of Defence: The Annual Statement of Major Defence Projects (Stationery Office: £7.40).

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Get on top of tomorrow

Belgian ruler 'quits' over Bill

BELGIUM has been thrown into its most serious constitutional crisis in decades by King Baudouin's decision to relinquish the throne, as a matter of conscience, to protest against the legalization of abortion. His father, King Leopold, abdicated 39 years ago.

The Parliament is meeting in emergency session today to try to defuse the crisis. Ministers who met overnight on Monday have already declared the King's "ability to reign" and have taken over his powers to ensure that the long-awaited Bill on abortion is passed into law.

The new law overturns an abortion ban which has been in force for 100 years. The ban was severely discredited by the arrest and imprisonment in 1973 of Dr Willy Geers, a Belgian gynaecologist, for aborting a foetus conceived through incest, which he believed might be handicapped. Abortion is now widely tolerated in Belgium.

The new law permits pregnancies to be terminated in the first 12 weeks if two doctors independently agree that the mother is in "distress". She must also be given six days in which to reflect on her decision.

King Baudouin, well known for his abhorrence of abortion, vented his anger over the new Bill by devoting his new year speech to a homily on the sanctity of human life. Unable, so far, to have children themselves, he and Queen Fabiola, who has suffered a miscarriage, have found the Bill especially upsetting.

The Bill swept through the Senate last November and was passed by an overwhelming majority in the Chamber of Representatives last week despite dwindling rear-guard attempts to block it by the Flemish Christian Democrats.

King Baudouin will be without his crown for less than 48 hours if, as expected, Parliament can devise legal wording to allow him to resume office with his conscience intact.

The King stood down under a law permitting him to do so if ill or "other reasons" prevent him from fulfilling his duties. He will today use the same face-saving clause to allow him back in.

They will consider a motion that his inability to reign has

King Baudouin of Belgium temporarily gave up his throne yesterday after his conscience refused to allow him to sign a law legalizing abortion. The Cabinet assumed his powers to promulgate the measure. Peter Guilford reports.

now ceased, "so that the King, from the moment of that declaration, will resume his constitutional powers", a government statement said.

Unlike Leopold III, his father, who was forced to step down by strikes and unrest in 1951, King Baudouin is too popular to abdicate, and many people regard him as a crucial bridge holding together the sometimes uneasy mix of Belgium's French, Flemish and German-speaking communities.

Because of his popularity, the King's meddling in politics has always been tolerated. He blocked the resignation of Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, when his coalition fell apart in 1985, and is believed since to have blocked the appointment of ministers.

The Belgians' reverence for their King is partly genuine and partly enforced under an old law banning all reports other than of his official engagements. Transgressors can be jailed for up to three years.

Little, therefore, is known of his private affairs, but many rumours circulate concerning the monarchy's relations with Zaïre, once the jewel in imperial Belgium's crown, and the King is allegedly under investigation for smuggling chimpanzees from that country.

The law banning information about the King recently claimed one alarming victim. Mr Christian Bonvieu, a lawyer aged 45 from Namur, wrote to the King complaining that his new year homily on the sanctity of unborn human life was ill-timed, given the suffering in Romania. He sent a copy of the letter to a newspaper and another to the regional prosecutor, who had him charged.

It appears the affair has now subsided only because the palace has distanced itself from the dispute.



Prisoner of conscience: King Baudouin refused to sign a Bill on abortion into law

Dynasty dogged by strife

THE Belgian monarchy has had its fair share of controversy and tragedy for such a short history. Installed after the 1830 revolution against Dutch rule, Prince Leopold of

Saxe-Coburg became the first King of an independent Belgium. He proved a skilful diplomat, but his son and successor, Leopold II, provoked an international outcry with his involvement in the Congo.

The exposure by Sir Roger Casement of the exploitation of African labour there led to the end of the King's personal rule of the vast independent state in 1908.

King Leopold III, who married Princess Astrid of Sweden, became Belgium's fourth king after King Albert I was killed in a climbing accident in

1934. Queen Astrid died in a car crash.

The King's decision to surrender to the invading Germans in May 1940 put in question the restoration of the monarchy in post-war Belgium. The military historian Liddell Hart argued that Leopold's decision to remain with his troops kept Belgium in the war long enough to let the British Expeditionary Force reach Dunkirk.

King Leopold returned to his country in 1950. The unrest this provoked led him to abdicate the following year in favour of his son Baudouin.

King to leave exile for Romania tour

By Alan Hamilton

THE exiled King Michael of Romania is to return to his country next week for the first time since he was forced by the communists to abdicate at gunpoint more than 42 years ago.

There is no precedent in the modern history of the British throne: the departure of Edward VIII was permanent.

There are, however, examples of monarchs refusing to give the Royal Assent to parliamentary Bills. The last was Queen Anne in 1707, who refused to put her signature to an obscure Bill for settling the militia in Scotland.

According to Lord St John of Fawsley, an authority on the Constitution, such a tactic would be unthinkable nowadays. "It could not happen. The Queen has to act on the advice of her ministers. She has to sign any properly constituted Bill put up to her. She would have to sign her own death warrant if it was presented to her."

To Dr John Barnes, a constitutional specialist at the London School of Economics, the issue is not quite so clear. "The Queen probably still has the power to refuse the Royal Assent, although such power is definitely in dispute."

There is another, ingenious way: when the Queen travels abroad, she creates the Prince of Wales or another close member of her family a Counsellor of State, with full powers to act in her absence. She could therefore take a fortnight in Australia while whatever she had created a Counsellor gave assent in her absence to an Act to which she felt overwhelming antipathy.

What the Queen does have the power to do is refuse, or to force, a dissolution of Parliament. If the Queen were to keep her throne, one political party would have to support her position, and that party would have to win the subsequent election.

The creation of a regency would, Dr Barnes says, "remain a possible fudge solution", although there was no precedent, except on the grounds of the monarch's illness, as in the case of George III during his periods of madness.

Constitutionalists also point out that the Queen is debarred from stepping aside by the anointing and vows of her Coronation, which bind her by solemn oath to serve until death the reason advanced against any possibility of the Queen abdicating in favour of the Prince of Wales.

Mr Geagea, who heads the 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces militia, said: "Handing over the barracks to General Lahoud (President Hrawi's pro-Syrian army commander) is a practical gateway for peace and a solution to the present crisis." Mr Geagea was speaking in an interview with the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio. His gesture was another overture to President Hrawi, General Aoun's main rival.

Since January 31 General Aoun and Mr Geagea have been battling for supremacy in the Christian areas in central Lebanon where around a million people live.

At the root of their feuding is Mr Geagea's support for an Arab-brokered peace pact that brought President Hrawi to power. General Aoun opposed the accord because it provides for ending his leadership in the Christian areas.

LE SOIR

prise constitutionnelle : le Roi a refusé de contresigner la loi sur l'avortement

Television becomes battlefield for Peru presidential hopefuls

From Corinne Schmidt, Lima

WHEN Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian presidential front-runner, first saw a commercial, now recalled as "the monkey spot", he applauded. When Peruvians saw the spot on television, they were horrified.

The commercial showed a monkey, dressed in a bureaucrat's shirt and tie, playing with a cigar, throwing papers around, and while swinging from a ceiling lamp, urinating. The monkey represented Peruvian government employees, and while it urinated over the mess, the voice-over noted sarcastically: "They (the bureaucrats) always worry about those below them."

The advertisement was withdrawn after five days of airplay. It occurred early enough in Señor Vargas Llosa's campaign for only a minor impact on his long-term popularity. But it has come to symbolize the pitfalls of his multi-million dollar media campaign, the first of its kind in Peruvian politics.

For several months now, Peruvians, and particularly the residents of Lima or Límenos, have been bombarded with an ever-increasing diet of television and radio commercials (not to mention newspaper advertisements, street graffiti, posters, and billboards) urging them to vote for this or that candidate for president, senator, or deputy.

While every party has done

its best to catch the public's eye, far and away the most visible has been Señor Vargas Llosa and his centre-right Democratic Front (Fredemo) coalition.

Señor Vargas Llosa, who is the businessman's candidate, has had the resources to mount a campaign which none of his opponents can hope to match.

One campaign adviser said the neo-liberal novelist's television campaigns have cost "only" \$2.5 million (£1.53 million). But he added that every television station had given him preferential rates (something denied the other candidates), and many advertising agencies had charged him little or nothing.

Another adviser said that the total media campaign for all the Fredemo candidates had cost over \$8 million – in a country where the monthly minimum wage last month was \$29.

Other candidates have used these astronomical costs to attack Señor Vargas Llosa, with some effect. Peruvians are now seeing the issue of campaign costs as one of fairness.

Peru has no laws requiring disclosure of campaign funding, a limit on expenses or that the media offer equal rates to all candidates.

As a result, the differences in the campaigns are stark. Fredemo candidates have run more television advertisements than both Alfonso

Barrantes and Henry Pease, the two leftwing presidential contenders.

The issue of campaign spending is beginning to hurt Señor Vargas Llosa. His strongest supporters are white and well-to-do, in a nation which is mostly Indian or mixed-race and poor.

Señor Ricardo Witnitzky, one of Señor Vargas Llosa's chief publicity advisers, admitted: "The poor still have their prejudices about Mario as the friend of the rich."

But his publicity team has designed commercials to lessen this prejudice. They show the candidate in poor neighbourhoods with the people, as well as explain his intentions about important problems like inflation, unemployment and terrorism.

To an extent, Señor Vargas Llosa has succeeded in defining his issues through television. In one commercial he promised to fight joblessness through foreign and domestic investment. This was surprisingly successful. "In this country, in the past, you couldn't talk about bringing in foreign capital. This has totally changed," said Señor Manuel Cordoba, a political analyst.

But Señor Cordoba and others agree that "Mario Vargas Llosa's popularity declines as you go down the social scale", and some aspects of the television campaign have done nothing to help that.

One recent advertisement showed a white woman (the

wife of the candidate's brother-in-law) leading what is nearly an apotheosis of the novelist: singing: "Let's go Peru, we'll make the great change and work in peace and freedom."

"It's a beautifully produced spot," said Mr Saul Mankevich of the polling company, Datum. "But the focus group studies among the poor say it's a commercial for rich white kids. And nobody sings the jingle. Everyone sang (current President) Alan García's jingle."

Another of Señor Vargas Llosa's adviser laments: "The music should have been chicka (a blend of Andean and tropical Latin rhythms popular in Lima)." Instead, it is the kind of modern pop heard in Lima's wealthier neighbourhoods.

Worst of all has been the deluge of campaign spots for Señor Vargas Llosa's fellow "Fredemistas" running for Congress. A peculiarity of Peruvian electoral law is that congressional contestants, such as the 40 candidates for deputies each party is running in Lima, must compete both against other parties and against their own.

The result due to the bloated campaign financing Fredemo has enjoyed, has been an oversaturation of advertisements. Tired television viewers and radio fans suffer through as many as five different Fredemo spots in a row.

Royal rights limited in UK

By Alan Hamilton

The likelihood of a British sovereign emulating King Baudouin by vacating the throne temporarily is probably impossible, constitutionalists agree.

There is no precedent in the modern history of the British throne: the departure of Edward VIII was permanent.

There are, however, examples of monarchs refusing to give the Royal Assent to parliamentary Bills. The last was Queen Anne in 1707, who refused to put her signature to an obscure Bill for settling the militia in Scotland.

According to Lord St John of Fawsley, an authority on the Constitution, such a tactic would be unthinkable nowadays. "It could not happen. The Queen has to act on the advice of her ministers. She has to sign any properly constituted Bill put up to her. She would have to sign her own death warrant if it was presented to her."

To Dr John Barnes, a constitutional specialist at the London School of Economics, the issue is not quite so clear. "The Queen probably still has the power to refuse the Royal Assent, although such power is definitely in dispute."

There is another, ingenious way: when the Queen travels abroad, she creates the Prince of Wales or another close member of her family a Counsellor of State, with full powers to act in her absence. She could therefore take a fortnight in Australia while whatever she had created a Counsellor gave assent in her absence to an Act to which she felt overwhelming antipathy.

What the Queen does have the power to do is refuse, or to force, a dissolution of Parliament. If the Queen were to keep her throne, one political party would have to support her position, and that party would have to win the subsequent election.

The creation of a regency would, Dr Barnes says, "remain a possible fudge solution", although there was no precedent, except on the grounds of the monarch's illness, as in the case of George III during his periods of madness.

Constitutionalists also point out that the Queen is debarred from stepping aside by the anointing and vows of her Coronation, which bind her by solemn oath to serve until death the reason advanced against any possibility of the Queen abdicating in favour of the Prince of Wales.

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Mayor flouts Rocard racism pledge

From Sean MacDonald
Paris

NO SOONER had M Michel Rocard, the Prime Minister, said that the French Government would take action against people who made racist remarks, than M Jacques Médecin, the Mayor of Nice, provided him with the perfect opportunity to fulfil his pledge.

His discriminatory remarks on three of his town councillors, made on television on Tuesday evening just as M Rocard's much heralded inter-party round table on racism was breaking up, were yesterday judged "scandalous" by M Louis Le Pen, the government spokesman. "At a moment when the

leaders of our country agree to fight against this racism scourge, M Médecin has distinguished himself once again by his scandalous remarks and dishonourable behaviour," M Le Pen said.

Médecin gained international notoriety when he was accused of corruption by the author, Graham Greene, in his book *J'Accuse*.

Nice, which the right-wing Mayor and his father before him have run for 62 years, played host to M Jean-Marie Le Pen and his National Front congress last weekend. Among those invited to attend was Herr Franz Schonhuber, a former wartime member of the German SS and a colleague of M Le

Pen in the European Parliament. His presence, and the fact that M Médecin welcomed M Le Pen, led three Nice councillors to resign on Monday.

Asked on television whether he would now consider appointing National Front councillors, M Médecin replied: "If room could be found – and it is not I who have opened a space, it is the Jews who have gone." The three who resigned are all Jewish.

Médecin said just as he knew of no Jew who would turn down a gift, even if he didn't like it, he knew of no mayor who turned down supporting votes.

The anti-racist organization SOS-Racisme says it will sue M Médecin.

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Gorbachov 'enraged' by Estonian declaration

Tallinn
PRESIDENT Gorbachov criticized Estonia's drive for independence in a telephone conversation, the republic's president said yesterday.

Mr Arnold Ruutel, president of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, told the republic's official television that Mr Gorbachov used strong words and was generally very angry during their conversation.

In a later radio interview, Mr Ruutel said Mr Gorbachov lashed out at the republic's legislative declaration last Friday describing Estonia as an occupied state. "When I heard of your resolution it was completely beside myself. You must declare the resolution null and void. It is an invalid one," Mr Ruutel quoted Mr Gorbachov as saying.

"It seems to me that I have to introduce similar measures as those taken in Lithuania," he quoted the Soviet leader as saying. He did not elaborate on those remarks when asked by the radio interviewer.

But in the television interview, Mr Ruutel said that after he gave a precise description of Estonia's stand and said the republic would not back off its desire for independence, Mr Gorbachov calmed down.

Estonia said last week it would to seek to re-establish independence at the end of a still-undefined transition period. Unlike their Baltic neighbors in Lithuania, the Estonians are treading a more careful line on secession and have called on Moscow to start negotiations.

Mrs Marju Lauristin, Deputy Speaker and a leader of the People's Front political movement, called the conversation positive. "In spite of this first negative reaction, it is a contact and every contact is needed for negotiations," she said.

Mrs Lauristin said Mr Gorbachov demanded from Mr Ruutel a full report about the situation in Estonia, which she said was being prepared.

Estonia declared support for Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence and called on Mr Gorbachov to halt army pressure and stop "political provocations" against Lithuania.

Mr Edgar Savisaar, the republic's newly elected Prime Minister, said his Government

would focus on the restoration of independence, economic reforms and attempts to avoid conflicts between Estonia's ethnic groups. Ethnic Estonians make up 60 per cent of the republic's 1.6 million people. Slavs and other non-Estonian nationalities have expressed concern that the republic's move toward independence would hurt their interests. (AP)

• MOSCOW: The three-man Lithuanian delegation attempting to start negotiations here on the republic's independence returned home yesterday evening with little to report after a round of talks with a senior Politburo member (Michael Binyon writes).

The delegation, headed by Mr Romualdas Ozolas, the Deputy Prime Minister, held talks with Mr Alexander Yakovlev, a close adviser to President Gorbachov, but was unable to obtain any assurances on a start to formal negotiations. It also failed to meet Mr Dmitry Yazov, the Defence Minister, and Mr Vadim Bakatin, the Interior Minister.

Mr Yazov based his refusal to talk on the fact that the Lithuanians constituted a foreign delegation — the opposite to Mr Gorbachov's refusal to talk to anyone who was not part of the Soviet Union.

The delegation would not reveal what was said to Mr Yakovlev.

Meanwhile, the head of the KGB border guard said the situation on the border between Lithuania and Poland, closed by the Soviet authorities on Tuesday, was normal and no serious incidents had occurred.

Lieutenant-General Vladimir Shlyakhtin said in an interview that all border posts on Lithuanian territory had been strengthened, in line with President Gorbachov's decree on March 21 to ensure border security.

The newly elected chairman of the Council of the Union, one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet, yesterday expressed optimism that a solution acceptable to both sides could be achieved through dialogue. But Dr Ivan Lepet, a liberal doctor of philosophy who has just resigned after six years as editor of *Izvestia*, called for restraint.

Perestroika is threatened by economy crisis

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

SOVIET resistance to economic reform is so intense that President Gorbachov's liberalization package may have to be scrapped and the country would have to return to the old rigid planning system, a senior economic adviser has said.

The warning came as the Soviet Union recorded one of its worst economic performances in decades, with industrial growth falling by 1 per cent in the first two months of this year.

Mr Andrei Orlov, chief aide to Mr Leonid Abalkin, the architect of the proposed radical economic reform, told *Izvestia* that the current crisis was worsening and that a political decision would have to be taken soon.

"There is a very strong view that we should return to the positions of 1985, to tried and trusted methods and means," he said. Referring to the orthodox Communist system in place before Mr Gorbachov came to power, he added: "The command system has not yet been smashed, and nostalgia for the past is strong."

He said public trust in the Government was falling, and many senior politicians have realized that they now have a last chance to rescue public confidence.

But in remarks tinged with pervasive pessimism, Mr Orlov said an economic reform package scheduled to be introduced in the next few weeks could be rejected, the team of liberal advisers dispersed and the whole concept of a market economy replaced by the old planning system.

A failure to implement economic reform could be the death blow to *perestroika*, which is being roundly criticized for failing to deliver a better standard of living.

Soviet economists are deeply divided on how to implement the reforms, which all agree will be painful and could trigger unprecedented political discontent.

On Tuesday Mr Abalkin denied that Moscow would adopt a "Polish solution" — a



A wheelchair-bound Lithuanian woman displaying a map of the country at a pro-independence rally by disabled people in Vilnius yesterday

Vilnius envoy criticizes Britain's silence

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Editor

THE near-silence of the British Government on the Soviet clampdown in Lithuania was bitterly criticized in London yesterday by a senior spokesman of the new Government of the new Government in Vilnius.

Mr Algis Cekulaitis, foreign affairs adviser to President Landsbergis, said: "Let us remember Munich."

Unless the British Government took a stronger line, he said, it would risk comparisons with Britain's capitulation to Hitler in 1938 over the annexation of Czechoslo-

vakia. "We expect nothing for our own sake but we are disappointed that the British Government is slow to recognize its own interests..."

He went on: "Now is the turning point: not to use the influence Mrs Thatcher has, (would be wrong). It could be that this opportunity will not arise again in this century."

He noted that the United States appeared to be more active than Britain, mainly because of pressure from the US Senate and the House of Congress.

Mr Cekulaitis flew in to London from Moscow, where

talks between the Lithuanian delegation and Soviet officials had broken down.

But he did not see British officials because the British Government has made it clear that its priority is to avoid making matters more difficult for President Gorbachov.

He said this policy was misguided. The British Government's fears that Mr Gorbachov might be toppled and replaced by a hardliner showed a lack of understanding of the situation.

"There is no need to remove Gorbachov because a hardliner is already at the

wheel of the country," he claimed. Mr Gorbachov was a man whose personality changed according to the situation, and in his current guise should be seen as a hardliner.

The takeover of Lithuania had been similar to that of Czechoslovakia by Soviet forces in 1968, but more subtle. "It's the same as it was in Prague, but much more clever," he said.

"Moscow has learned the lesson of August 1968, and a huge smoke-screen is going on. From yesterday you had better not believe any news

coming from Lithuania unless it comes from Western powers.

"The Soviet Union is intervening now; it has sealed the borders; there is an information blackout," he said.

The Lithuanian state has not, formerly applied to Britain for recognition but, he said, this was because it feared a rebuff.

He appealed to the British Government to consider whether it would not be in its own interests, as much as those of Lithuania, to recognize its country's independence.

Secret police work goes on

From Peter Green
Prague

AT LEAST six Soviet KGB agents and six Czechoslovak secret police, the StB, are working in each other's capitals, Mr Richard Sacher, the Interior Minister, has revealed.

He also said General Albin Lorenz, the former StB chief and First Deputy Minister of the Interior, was summoned to Monday.

However, Mr Sacher warned against moving too quickly against StB agents because such action could destabilize Czechoslovakia.

"Pressure might provide counter-pressure," Mr Sacher said. "Excessive medical steps against the StB can reinforce this section and thus destabilize the situation in our country," he added.

Mr Sacher gave no details of what the KGB personnel were up to in Czechoslovakia, but his revelation contradicted statements made to *The Times* last December by Dr Ivan Prusa, the man charged with cleaning up the StB. He had said all Soviet agents had been sent packing.

General Lorenz, who ran the StB for much of the last decade, is under investigation for his role in the beatings of student demonstrators which led to the November revolution.

Mr Sacher also admitted that the lack of competent and trustworthy replacements was holding back his efforts to clean up the StB. He said he could not even rely on former security agents who supported the 1968 Prague Spring reforms.

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Battle of Dinosaurs leaves Greek voters longing for catharsis

From Philip Jacobson, Athens

THREE general elections in 10 months are a severe test of any democracy. And if the mood in Greece ahead of next Sunday's poll reflects widespread apathy shot through with cynicism, that is hardly surprising.

The trio of big party leaders shuffling once more across the hustings are commonly nicknamed "the Dinosaurs", with an average age 72. For an increasing number of voters, they have nothing fresh to offer, no vision for an apprehensive nation beyond getting their hands on power.

Since neither of the two dominant parties — the conservative New Democracy and the Socialists — appears to have much chance of outright victory, the Greeks are facing the depressing prospect of yet another hung Parliament, with the third-placed Communists open, as ever, to offers.

On all known form, that means that patronage, arm-twisting and backroom deals will again smother the public's hope — longing might be a better word — for a catharsis that will finally produce a stable government worthy of support.

The opinion polls are forecasting renewed deadlock between Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the conservative leader, and Pasok's apparently unsinkable Mr Andreas Papandreou. But they also indicate a small but potentially significant shift towards Greece's version of the Greens. Benefiting from the electorate's weariness with old

style politics and growing concern about air pollution in Athens and other big towns, the loose grouping of almost 100 "alternative" candidates, campaigning under the Ecologists' banner, could go from one to three seats — enough perhaps to hold the balance of power if Sunday does produce another indecisive result.

Two patently useless coalition governments since last June have convinced most political observers that there is nothing to hope for there. The endless bickering about who is to blame for the looming economic crisis understandably enrages ordinary Greeks, who will bear the brunt of an austerity programme that cannot be avoided for much longer.

In the circumstances, the rocket that the European Commission's President, Mr Jacques Delors, has just fired off against the Greek Government is the hottest topic in an election otherwise lacking the usual exuberance of the Greek campaign trail.

M Delors warned the caretaker Prime Minister, Mr Xenophon Zolotas, that Athens must get to grips fast with its 16.5 per cent inflation and huge budget deficit: failure to honour conditions attached to past loans from the EC, his formal letter also noted sharply, "is a serious concern for all of us".

For his own political reasons, Mr Mitsotakis decided to release the letter from Brussels, producing another unedifying slanging match. Despite reports that he and Mr

Papandreou are now on friendly terms, these two old foes still seem more likely to shake each other warmly by the throat. Despite their advanced years, both have been stamping vigorously around the country in search of the few thousand extra votes that would translate, with Greece's complex electoral arithmetic, into outright victory for New Democracy or a commanding bargaining position for the Socialists.

Graffiti immortalized: An American and his daughter inspecting the handwork of a graffiti artist in the Berlin Museum. It was painted in 1985 on the Wall.

Bonn speeds currency plan

From Ian Murray, Bonn

AFTER yesterday's agreement in East Berlin to form a coalition government next Wednesday, relieved West German government and banking experts are preparing a crash legislation programme to rush through currency union with East Germany by the summer.

In the end, however, the Bundesbank will have a much louder voice because it has to administer currency union and protect the Deutschmark from any adverse effects of currency union. Although its proposal for a basic rate of "one for two" has been condemned across the political spectrum in East Germany, it is arguing strongly that parity would fire inflation and undermine the stability of the Deutschmark at a time when its strength is needed to finance reunification.

The subject was discussed during yesterday's Cabinet meeting here at a time when it was still not sure that the East Germans had been able to agree on a coalition. It was agreed even so that experts would have to work through the Easter break preparing the way for currency union, which is regarded as the essential forerunner of the social and political legislation needed for reunification.

With a grand coalition forming in East Germany, in which Herr Elmar Pienoth, an experienced West German Christian Democrat is promised the crucial economics ministry, a team can be nominated to negotiate the detailed terms of currency union.

Before going off for his regular Easter slimming cure, Chancellor Helmut Kohl will chair a meeting of specialist ministers here today to make sure that the machinery is in place ready to go to work the moment the East German officials are appointed.

The East Germans can expect little real say in the way the final deal is put together, although Herr Hans Klein, the West German spokesman, made a careful statement after the Cabinet meeting insisting that no decisions could be taken until they had been consulted. The West German

Germans keep 'wall' intact

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

GERMANY may be well on the road to becoming the "united fatherland" but as the artificial division of 40 years crumbles an even older gulf is widening. This chasm makes the East-West divide look cosy by comparison.

The Germans have always known in their heart of hearts that the watch-towers and barbed wire were in the wrong place. It is the North-South divide that everyone takes seriously. The two regions in both Germany treat each other with mutual disdain.

The geographical divide has been at the centre of the tussle over the formation of a grand coalition in East Germany of the three conservative parties, with the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Liberals gritting their teeth at the negotiating table.

After talks into the night yesterday, the parties resolved to hold the first parliamentary session today to vote in Christian Democrat Herr Lothar de Maizière as Prime Minister.

The southern *Land* of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg in the West and Saxony and Thuringia in the east are described as "the white-sausage belt" because of their passion for this acquired taste. Southerners, they say up north, speak an impenetrably awful dialect and are unbearably hearty.

Meanwhile the *Land* of Schleswig-Holstein in the West and its neighbouring Pomerania and Mecklenburg over the border in the east are, as every white-sausage eater knows, the home of "fish heads" whose slowness of speech is matched only by that of their understanding.

This insight is the key to understanding the protagonist in East Germany's protracted coalition talks — the German Social Union (DSU).

This southern-based right-wing party which gained six per cent of the votes in the recent elections (guess where)

Genscher offer to renounce nuclear arms

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

HERR Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that a united Germany might formally renounce possession of all but conventional military forces to ally Soviet opposition to its full membership of Nato.

Emerging from a White House meeting with President Bush, he referred to Soviet security interests and to "the importance in this respect of a binding declaration in which we will make it clear that neither today nor in the future will we have nuclear, biological or chemical weapons".

Herr Genscher appeared to be saying that a united Germany would be non-nuclear, meaning that Nato's short-range nuclear weapons would have to be removed.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, disputed this interpretation, however, suggesting that Herr Genscher meant that a united Germany would not develop nuclear, chemical or biological weapons of its own.

He added that West Germany was "determined to strengthen and to deepen" the pan-European Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) process by creating new institutions.

Mr Fitzwater indicated that the CSCE, which includes all Nato and Warsaw Pact countries, would play an increasingly important role. Herr Genscher and Mr Bush had discussed the CSCE's role at length and had agreed that it was "a good forum for providing a framework for stability as we go through the changes in Eastern Europe", he said.

Hurd in troops warning

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

THE Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, yesterday predicted a "sizeable transitional period" before Soviet troops could be removed from East Germany and Poland.

Giving evidence to the Commons foreign affairs committee, he said that such a breathing space might help assuage Moscow's fears of a united Germany within Nato.

In a statement he suggested that acceptance of Soviet troops in East Germany might be the price to pay for persuading the Soviet Union to accept membership.

"Membership of Nato by a united Germany is essential. It is a very difficult thing for the Soviet Union to accept for historical reasons," he said.

"They (the Russians) are maintaining in public statements a traditional opposition. What is not clear to me is how deep that opposition really goes. I hope it may be possible to persuade them that it is actually in the interests of the security of the Soviet Union that a united Germany should be part of the alliance."

Although Mrs Thatcher said last week that the US, Britain and France should keep "sizeable forces" in Germany, Mr Hurd told the committee there was now general agreement that non-German troops should not be stationed in the east of a united Germany.

He predicted the forum for overseeing the changes in Europe should be the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) which will hold a summit later this year to discuss moves towards a reunified Germany and changes in Eastern Europe.

"One can envisage a CSCE system which builds a new storey on the Helsinki Final Act and strengthens what is already there on human rights and borders ...", he said.



Graffiti immortalized: An American and his daughter inspecting the handwork of a graffiti artist in the Berlin Museum. It was painted in 1985 on the Wall.

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Herr Mielke: Lulled into complacency by Moscow

Soviet 'promises' misled East Berlin

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

ONE of the most mysterious and powerful figures within East Germany's former hierarchy has emerged from hiding in West Germany to speak for the first time of Soviet disinformation channelled into the East German security service in the last days of the regime.

Herr Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, a colonel in the Ministry of State Security who, since 1966, had been responsible for the shady acquisition of hard currency, said in an interview with the West German newspaper *Die Welt* yesterday that Herr Erich Mielke, the State Security Minister, was led to believe that the Soviets would intervene at the last moment to prevent the collapse of socialism in East Germany.

He said that Herr Egon Krenz, Herr Erich Honecker's successor as leader, had already had talks with the Soviet

Ambassador in East Berlin about his intention to topple the hard-line leader and introduce Soviet-type reforms.

Mielke was convinced that the Soviet Union would, as he put it, not let East Germany go astray. Herr Schalck-Golodkowski said: "Mielke was kept informed by the Russians right up until the last minute, but the information was false as it turned out."

Herr Schalck-Golodkowski emerged as a member of a privileged inner circle only with the advent of Herr Krenz as leader. He was tipped for a top post, but fled the country in December after questions were asked about his role in alleged drug and weapon smuggling, and the discovery of antiques and paintings in his luxury home led to allegations of corruption.

After escaping from East Germany, he gave himself up

claims the currency he acquired was used for hospitals and universities, although he admits that Herr Honecker had a personal account of DM100 million (£333,000).

The picture that emerges is one of economic chaos thinly disguised as success by men desperate to hold on to their spurious positions. Herr Honecker, he said, believed the mass rallies put on for his pleasure truly represented the mood of the country, while Herr Günter Mittag, his economic chief, "knew that the policies were driving us into ruin", but continued regardless.

Herr Schalck-Golodkowski has settled in the south of West Germany with his wife. Most of his erstwhile colleagues are awaiting trial in East Germany. There, they call him simply, "the one who got away".

Peking courts UK co-operation as Basic Law passed

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

WITH only a few dissenting votes, China's National People's Congress (parliament) yesterday approved the Basic Law, the mini-constitution for Hong Kong after 1997.

There were 2,660 votes for and 16 against with 37 abstentions. The vote was applauded for 30 seconds.

At a press conference later, Mr Wu Xueqian, a Vice-Premier, called for the British Government to co-operate with China for the next seven years "to ensure a steady transition period and a smooth transfer of power on July 1, 1997".

He said that all preparations for the handover must comply with the Basic Law before 1997. Critics of the British Government say that its willingness to co-operate with China and to work towards compliance with the Basic Law means that China is effectively regaining control of Hong Kong long before 1997.

A flurry of administrative decisions on Hong Kong was passed at the same closing session of the Congress yesterday, all with similarly small votes against.

China has recently expressed anger about the British Government's nationality package, and has threatened that it will not, after 1997, honour British passports issued under the scheme.

China says that Hong Kong residents are Chinese citizens, and as such must receive permission before they can surrender their citizenship.

Xinhua, the official Chinese

news agency, recently quoted a government official, a descendant of China's last Emperor, as saying that the return of Hong Kong to the mainland would be like the return of a kidnapped child to its parents.

In schools and colleges, students have been told to embark on a study of the Opium War of 1839 to 1842 which China lost to Britain. The study is supposed to teach young people about the evils of imperialism, especially British imperialism.

The Opium War concluded with the treaty under which Hong Kong was ceded to Britain.

The war was fought over British exports of opium to China, which the Chinese Government wanted to halt. Britain continued with the trade after they won the war.

The promulgation of the Basic Law was in fact one of the least controversial votes at the Congress yesterday.

While there were only 12 votes against the work report of Mr Li Peng, the Premier, there were 220 abstentions — an unusual show of disunity.

There were 70 votes against the budget — which awarded a large increase in funding to the Army and, some said, not enough to agriculture — with 93 abstentions.

All votes were cast on the new, electronic push-button equipment which, the media insists, keeps no record of how deputies voted.

After the closing session, Mr Li, appearing relaxed and

confident in a dark Western suit, gave a press conference at which he delivered a veiled warning to France.

He would not confirm that Mrs Chai Ling and Mr Feng Congde, her husband, who are both student leaders, had fled China and were living in France as has been reported in Hong Kong.

But he reminded the French Government that it had undertaken not to permit subversion on its soil against a government with which it maintained diplomatic relations.

Mr Li said that questions about last June's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators were no longer relevant, but were "outmoded". Significantly, he failed to apportion responsibility for the order to open fire on the night of June 3.

In the official report of what happened there is no reference to any orders to open fire.

The report simply says that soldiers fired into the air when they could no longer tolerate citizens blocking their path and attacking them.

Chinese sources say that the Government's refusal to admit that it issued an order to open fire has angered army officers, who insist that they merely obeyed orders in attacking the demonstrators.

The sources add that the Administration is afraid that, if anyone admits issuing the order, the admission will one day be used against members of the Government in a court of law.



Armed Chinese police patrolling Tiananmen Square in central Peking yesterday as the anniversary of last year's pro-democracy demonstrations approaches

Egypt 'close' to achieving a nuclear capability

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

IN AN ominous twist to the escalating hi-tech arms race in the Middle East, there are strong indications that Egypt has joined the secret list of Islamic nations close to achieving a nuclear capability.

Yesterday all Cairo's semi-official newspapers carried a report of an article in the Bahraini daily, *Al-Ayam*, claiming that the Central Intelligence Agency was currently investigating co-operation between Egypt and Argentina to produce six kilograms (13.2 lb) of plutonium, described as sufficient to manufacture a nuclear bomb.

The report was seen in diplomatic circles as a thinly veiled response to Israel's spectacular launch on Tuesday of a second spy satellite, which itself came after threats from Iraq — one of Egypt's closest allies — that half of Israel would be destroyed in the event of an Israeli pre-emptive strike.

"The Egyptians are letting it be known to their own people that they are not being left behind in the nuclear arms race, without admitting anything openly," said a Western military expert, one of the many convinced that Egypt will join the nuclear club within the next few years.

The latest edition of the pro-government Cairo weekly, *Maya*, known for its close links to President Mubarak, quoted a US naval intelligence chief as telling Congress in the wake of the exposure of Iraq's efforts to smuggle nuclear triggers through London that Egypt was ahead of Iraq in the production of a nuclear bomb.

The magazine appeared to give credibility to Israeli press reports that Egypt — in co-operation with Argentina, Pakistan and Iraq — was in the process of developing a 20 megawatt nuclear reactor capable of producing sufficient material to manufacture a nuclear device.

A British expert was quoted as stating that Iraq and Pakistan were co-operating in establishing the reactor on Egyptian soil.

The report was accompanied by a claim by Egypt's Minister of Electric Power and Energy, Mr Maher Abozez, that Egypt's nuclear research programme was above board and conducted openly under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency based in Vienna.

The minister also pointed out that Egypt was a signatory of the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

However, observers in Cairo who have long suspected Egypt of conducting a secret nuclear programme noted that Iraq was also a signatory of the treaty and was even a member of the organization's board of governors.

It has been an open secret for some time that Egypt, Argentina and Iraq have been collaborating closely on the manufacture of an intercontinental ballistic missile known both as the Badr-2000 or the Condor-2, with a range of 600 miles and the capability of carrying a nuclear payload.

The multi-billion-dollar project, assisted by a number of West European companies, is understood to have been speeded up after Israel's launching of its first spy satellite in September, 1988, and Soviet reports a year later that it had test launched its own ballistic missile with a range of 800 miles.

Soon after the launching of the first satellite, *Ofek-1*, Major-General Ahmed Nabil Ibrahim, a leading Egyptian strategist, urged Arab states to co-operate in building a nuclear deterrent. "Israel cer-

tainly possesses nuclear weapons and, since it remains the Arabs' arch enemy in the foreseeable future, we have no choice but to obtain a nuclear deterrent," the general stated.

It is extremely important for the Arabs to start a nuclear industry which cannot be bought or sold," he said, adding in remarks similar to those made by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on Monday that if Israel attacked such an Arab project, Arab states would have to retaliate with weapons which could reach the heart of Israel.

The Condor-2 project, reported to have suffered a number of financial difficulties and now based mainly on Iraqi territory, caused concern to the British Government as it was seen as a potential threat to the Falklands. Egypt's co-operation with Argentina was first publicized in 1987.

A year later, several Egyptian nationals and military officers were arrested in the US on charges of trying to smuggle out "carbon-carbon" material which is usable for missile nose cones. Work on the programme in Egypt is believed to be carried out at the Saqr missile factory outside Cairo.

Military analysts disagree over when the Condor-2 will be ready for use, with some reports saying that it could be operative by the end of this year. They said that Egypt was also involved in a less publicized missile project with North Korea and noted that a high-level North Korean delegation left Cairo on Tuesday after three days of talks.

The extreme climate of nervousness in the Middle East, generated by Iraq's chemical weapons threat and Israel's response, has been compared by both Arab and Western diplomats to the build-up of war fever in the region before the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Iraq's hard-line Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz, added to the climate of instability by accusing Israel of planning attacks against Iraq to avoid losing its military edge.

In a further sign of the Arab world rallying in support of Iraq, the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, is to visit Baghdad later this month.

Potential members of the club

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

A NUMBER of countries, apart from Israel and Iraq, are either close to or have the capability to develop nuclear arms.

South Africa, reportedly with Israeli help, has developed the technology and is known to have carried out one nuclear test.

Other potential members of the nuclear club include Pakistan and India, both capable of producing bombs. They also have the appropriate delivery systems. A US study estimated Pakistan would have enough nuclear material to build 10 bombs, and India about 100.

Taiwan started a nuclear programme 10 years ago but was stopped by Washington. Brazil and Argentina have the necessary technology to go nuclear.

North Korea is reported to be building installations for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons.

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US Senate backs tough measures to fight pollution

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE US Senate has overwhelmingly approved what is probably the toughest clean air legislation in the world, aiming to curtail drastically acid rain, urban smog and toxic waste emissions by the turn of the century.

By 89 votes to 11 late on Tuesday night senators approved a carefully crafted compromise that finally managed to bridge the opposing interests of coalmining, industrial and car-producing states on the one hand and environmentally sensitive states on the other.

Those conflicting interests were responsible for a 13-year legislative deadlock which scuppered several attempts during the 1980s to revise the feebly-enforced Clean Air Act of 1970. During that time atmospheric pollution grew steadily worse, with more than 100 cities recording unhealthy levels of smog and mounting evidence of ecological damage, particularly in New England.

President Bush, whose Administration can boast of no significant domestic achievements to date, described the vote as "historic" and said it would "affect generations to come as we work to build a cleaner, safer America".

The Democratic Senate leader, Mr George Mitchell, spent a month negotiating the compromise with the White House, which had unveiled its own far-reaching Bill last July but was concerned to keep down costs to industry, and then skilfully steered it through the Senate.

He called the vote a "tremendous victory for the American people who can look forward to cleaner air for decades to come."

The House of Representatives has still to consider its

version of the Bill, but in several areas that looks likely to be even tougher than the Senate's.

The Senate version attacks pollution on three fronts — urban smog, toxic chemicals and acid rain, and the Administration expects it to cost industry ultimately around \$21.5 billion (£13.4 billion) a year on top of the estimated \$3.5 billion cost of meeting present pollution laws. Most of the extra costs would be passed on to consumers.

On smog, it states that all US cities must comply, through monitored annual improvements of 4 per cent, with federal health standards by 2000, with nine of the worst given until 2005 and Los Angeles, until 2010.

The ubiquitous car is the principal target. Car makers will have to introduce far tighter exhaust standards. Over three years to 1995 nitrogen oxide emissions will have to be cut by 60 per cent and hydrocarbons by 40 per cent, with a second round of 50 per cent cuts if necessary in 2003. Even stricter cuts, involving new "super-clean fuel", will be required in the nine smoggiest cities.

To curb acid rain, the Senate Bill requires the 111 dirtiest power stations to cut sulphur dioxide emissions by 5 million tonnes by 1995, and over 300 power plants to make a further 3 million tonnes cut by 2000, giving a total cut of about 50 per cent on present levels.

Nitrogen oxide emissions would also be reduced substantially. After 2000 there would be a nationwide cap on sulphur-dioxide emissions, but power plants that clean up more than required will be able to sell their "allowances" to dirtier cities.

These are Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Milwaukee, San Diego and Hartford, Connecticut.



Nepalese vandalizing a government lorry and bulldozer sent in to clear barricades in the town of Patan set up after two pro-democracy demonstrators were killed and seven injured by police. Unrest has rocked Kathmandu Valley since the democracy campaign began in February

Turtle madness leaves America shell-shocked

From Charles Bremner, New York

ASK any American child to identify Leonardo, Donatello, Michelangelo and Raphael. You will almost certainly be told that they are a bunch of loud-mouthed, pizza-eating turtles who live in the New York sewers.

A knowledge of Renaissance art is not required to join in the most bizarre cultural phenomenon to engulf the United States since ... well, the manufactured Batman craze of 1989. The new mania is called "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles".

Car makers have calculated that the Bill will add more than \$100 to the cost of a new car, and are expected to resist strongly a provision in the House Bill which calls on them to certify a "capability" to produce a million cars by 1997 capable of running on clean fuels in the nine smoggiest cities.

Some see it as a warped symptom of America's obsession with Japan; some revile it as mindless exploitation; others see it as good harmless fun.

Ninja Turtles, originally an obscure comic strip cult, crept up slowly on the country until last week. They were known only to children and long-suffering parents who caught a glimpse of the cartoon show, or who forked out to buy their offspring Ninja Turtle action figures, video games, tapes, cereal, shampoo, bed linen and suchlike.

But last weekend saw the release of the movie, an event that elevated the comic strip "heroes of the half shell" to the rank of commercial juggernauts. The film, featuring humans dressed up in spandex, rubber and high-tech masks, earned \$25 million (£15.6 million) in the first two days, breaking the record for a non-summer opening.

To the delight of the businessmen who have already made some \$350 million (£218.75 million) in turtle merchandise, the television and press have proclaimed the onset of "Turtle-madness", and the unenlightened are learning the basics of turtle speak. This consists mainly of trademark expressions such as "Cowabunga", and California surf-talk such as, "Hey, let's party, dudes".

The turtle story, devised by two, then penniless artists in 1983, is a simple one. Four pet-shop tortoises (known generally as "turtles" in America) were dropped into a manhole in New York where they fell into a radioactive goo that caused them to grow to human size and acquire the power to speak. Masters of the Japanese martial arts, they spend their time eating pizza, cracking slightly off-colour jokes and bantling villains, most of whom are unpleasant oriental stereotypes.

The film critics have found little to say in favour of the turtle blockbuster, which was partially filmed at Mr Jim Henson's Muppet studios in London. *The New York Times* criticized the film for its non-stop violence, a trait that has earned it a "parental guidance" rating.

The newspaper called the film "itself a mutant of sorts ... contentious, unsightly, hybrid of martial arts exploitation, film and live-action cartoon". Roger Ebert, a syndicated and influential critic,

damned it as "probably the best possible Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie": "It's a very dark film and one wonders, after seeing it, if young Turtle fans are being denied the brightness and bounciness of an earlier generation of kiddie films."

Many parents too are disconcerted by the crudeness of the villains, who go under names such as Bebop the Powerhouse Punk Enforcer, Teachers and sociologists have been criticizing the "cultural message" of the turtles.

According to Mr Kevin Eastman and Mr Peter Laird, the young, now rich, creators, the creatures originated as a benign parody of self-righteous traditional cartoon superheroes. "We were sitting around ... we had watched a number of bad TV shows: *T.J. Hooker*, *The A-Team* and *Love Connection*. We got real punchy and for some reason I did a pencil sketch of a turtle with a mask. Then Pets did one, and another ... Pete said, 'Why not call them Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?'

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Japan agrees satellite pact

From Susan Elicott, Washington

JAPAN appears to be bowing to US demands for easier access to its markets in the face of threatened US sanctions against its imports.

Tokyo agreed in principle late on Tuesday to allow overseas companies to bid for business in commercial communications satellites with the Japanese Government and its public sector agencies.

Two weeks ago, both nations agreed on terms that will permit the United States to sell supercomputers to Japan's public sector.

The provisional satellite agreement, which is expected to be signed this month, follows increased pressure in the past weeks from the Bush Administration for Japan to open its markets more to foreign imports.

Congress has pledged to impose mandatory sanctions on Japanese goods entering the United States unless Tokyo meets a series of deadlines by mid-June on relaxing restrictions on US imports.

Talks are expected to begin next week in Tokyo on timber products, which are the final three areas in dispute under the so-called Super 301 clause of American trade law.

The United States and Japan are currently holding talks in Washington on the main causes of Washington's annual \$50 billion (£31 billion) trade deficit with Japan. The two envoys were scheduled to meet President Bush yesterday.

In a sign of increased efforts by Japan to persuade Washington it is trying to address US concerns, the concessions were delivered personally to US trade negotiators on Monday by two special envoys sent by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Toshiki Kaifu. The two envoys were scheduled to meet President Bush yesterday.

El Salvador peace moves meet with initial success

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A DETERMINED effort to end a decade of civil war in El Salvador launched yesterday under United Nations auspices has met with initial success.

Both parties in the conflict — the El Salvador Government and the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation (FMLN) — have agreed to start direct talks in the first week of May.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, said both sides had assured him of their "serious intention and good faith to achieve a negotiated settlement".

The initial objective of the talks, he said, was to seek agreement to halt the fighting and to end "acts that infringe the rights of the civil population". Such an agreement would be verified by UN observers.

Once this was achieved, the two parties could get on with democratization of the country and remitting Salvadoran society. This will include reintegration of members of the liberation front in the civil, institutional and political life of the country.

The dialogue will continue between the two sides — though not in Geneva — under the guidance of Señor Pérez de

intendents. "The signals coming from the other side are not that promising," he told a news conference. But the involvement of the UN has lessened some of his misgivings.

Although all parties have agreed that the talks must be confidential, the front has reportedly proposed a plebiscite under UN supervision on constitutional reform, including more deputies to the National Assembly, at the same time as next year's elections for the assembly.

• **MONTELIMAR:** The five Central American presidents signed an accord on Tuesday in this Nicaraguan town calling for all Contra rebels to be disarmed by April 25, the day the US-backed Government of Señora Violeta Chamorro is due to take office in Nicaragua (Reuters reports).

The statement was an apparent success for the outgoing President Ortega, who had sought the support of his Central American colleagues for the Contras to be disarmed by the time his left-wing Sandinista Government leaves office.

The accord, signed after a two-day summit here, said the demobilization and disarming of the Contras must start immediately.

Cocaine violence flares

Medellin — Gunmen, presumed to be working for the Medellin cocaine cartel, have unleashed a new wave of violence here, leaving 24 people dead and a prominent senator held hostage.

In the latest bloodshed, men armed with automatic weapons opened fire on customers and employees in a shop, killing six people and wounding nine, police said. (AFP)

Balloon rules

Canberra — Australia has drawn up new safety rules, including better pilot training, for commercial ballooning in the wake of accidents which last year killed 17 people, mostly tourists. (Reuters)

Airport closed

Port-au-Prince — The airport here has been closed for two days because a disgruntled soldier with a sub-machine gun has taken over an empty airliner of American Airlines. (AFP)

Aids cases rise

Buenos Aires — Aids cases in southern Bolivia, Argentina and Uruguay increased by 217 per cent in 1989, the largest increase in the western hemisphere, the World Health Organization said. (AFP)

Guerrillas held

Caracas — Two convicted Italian Red Brigades guerrillas on parole have been arrested near the Swiss border with an arsenal of weapons concealed in their car. (Reuters)

Rebels kill four

Harare — Three young girls and a woman of 60 were killed by Mozambican rebels who raided a village in the Rushinga area of north-eastern Zimbabwe. (AFP)

Tibet food aid

Peking — China's Air Force has dropped food and clothing to Tibetans trapped by blizzards which have killed 36 people. (Reuters)

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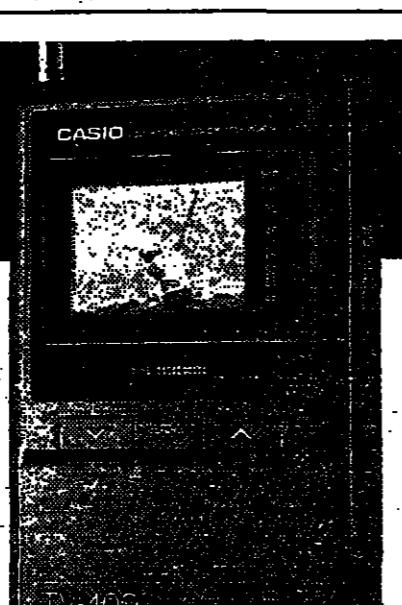
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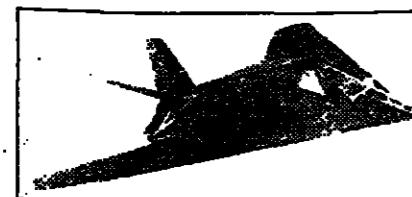
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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

There is a deal of embarrassment in the Pentagon over one of its more expensive toys. This week, with much pride and glossy photographs, the Defence Department unveiled its Stealth fighter, cousin of the larger and even more costly Stealth bomber. Naturally wishing Congress to vote enormous piles of money to buy more of these things, Pentagon officials were positively glowing about the capabilities of the fighter, especially its ability to drop



Off target: the new Stealth

small bombs with pinpoint accuracy. But the truth will always out. It now transpires that the fighter was secretly deployed during the invasion of Panama, with the task of making a very precise bombing raid on one of Noriega's barracks. The 2,000lb bomb was to be dropped exactly 165 yards away, so as to frighten the wits out of the enemy without blowing them all up. Alas, it went off hundreds of yards distant. Nothing wrong with the plane, the Pentagon now say in a frantic attempt to save face; it was all a bungle of misunderstood orders. One general ordered 165 yards, another thought it was 275 yards, the Air Force believed it was 55 yards, and the Army colonel who led the subsequent assault hadn't a clue what the Air Force were supposed to be doing.

A study of MPs' academic backgrounds reveals a curious fact; this Parliament appears to be the first in history in which products of state education outnumber those from public schools. Albert Armstrong of Hatfield, who has ploughed through every entry in *The Times Guide to the House of Commons*, reports that following the 1987 election there are now 272 MPs educated at local authority (including voluntary-aided) schools, while the independent sector (including the old direct-grant schools) can summon only 264. Leaving out the VA and direct-grant alumni, the state-educated lot have a majority of 20 over the traditional independent boarding and day schools.

Mind you, the old order has not disappeared entirely. Eton provided 46 current MPs, while comprehensives have supplied only eight. About 100 MPs were educated abroad or, for reasons best known to themselves, declined to disclose their education. What this great social shift means is not entirely clear, but if the behaviour in the Chamber is marginally less noisy and loutish than before, it has nothing to do with schooling and all to do with television.

My warmest congratulations to Simon Brockbank-Fowler, son of the former MP for North-West Norfolk who sank without trace after deserting the Conservatives for the SDP, for choosing to enter politics at the deep end. Not only is he defending one of the two marginals in Lady Porter's tenuously-held empire of Westminster City Council; I particularly admire him for trading under his full, if somewhat cumbersome, name. In this he has chosen not to emulate that other product of Westminster School, the former Lord Stansgate, who has spent his political career progressively shortening his.

On the very day that the General Medical Council handed down its verdict on the Turkish kidney saga, how curious to receive a letter from Ankara bearing a 600 lira postage stamp with the exhortation "Organ basiti ve organ nakli", which the Turkish embassy translated freely for me as "Carry a donor card for organ transplants". And there, in the picture, are a heart, an eye – and a pair of kidneys.

This column has received some rather breathless sales literature on the Complete Electronic Bible. This pocket-sized computer-type gadget has in its memory the entire Old and New Testaments in the New International Version, plus such indispensable features as a built-in electronic concordance, an electronic bookmark ("for returning to favourite passages"), an eight-line display screen and a spellcheck facility which offers a list of alternative words. Future bolt-on accessories promised by the manufacturers include a daily devotional guide, and Hebrew and Greek language aids. Compared with traditional versions, £299.95 seems to me exceedingly steep. But of course, with the Oxford University Press edition, you don't get a built-in calculator, clock and an alarm to rouse you to matins.

A MAN from BBC television news rang last week to say that Glenda Jackson had been adopted as Labour candidate for Hampstead and Highgate. I asked why he was telling me this; he had not phoned when Lithuania declared its independence and I had had to find out the result of the Calcutta Cup match all by myself.

The BBC newsmen said it was because Ms Jackson is a celebrity seeking election to Parliament and, according to their records, I was the last celebrity to win a seat. "What is it like, can we send the cameras, will you talk about the sort of reception you got and Glenda Jackson is likely to receive if she gets in?"

We conversed at 11 am; the cameras arrived at 11.45; the item was carried on the News at 1.20; impressive high-tech even if limited in viewer appeal. As I explained to the interviewer,

Yesteray the Government published its proposals to grant the right of abode to selected Hong Kong citizens. We know already of opposition within sections of the Conservative party to any concessions on the right of entry into the United Kingdom. How the Government's proposals will fare, what the political consequences will be, is not yet clear. But we are likely to be reminded yet again of Richard Crossman's diary observation in 1965 that the issue of immigration can turn into the "hottest potato in politics".

It is worth emphasizing that Britain has generally functioned as a net exporter rather than a net importer of people, though some periods, for example the years immediately preceding the 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act, witnessed a reversal of this trend. Even so, there is also a long tradition of arrival into the country, and it is hard to find a period when there were no "strangers in the land".

The history of immigration into Britain since 1945 shows a continuation of the process of entry evident earlier. Although the overwhelming public interest in recent years has focused on the arrival and settlement of Afro-Caribbean and Asian

groups, there is an important history of immigration from continental Europe and the Republic of Ireland. At the time of the last census the Irish remained the largest single immigrant minority. Even with the substantial increase of Afro-Caribbean and Asian groups since 1945, albeit from a low base, the majority of immigrants into Britain have been white. How have these various groups been received? One of the powerful celebratory traditions of our history emphasizes Britain's role as a centre or haven of toleration: a country in which decency triumphs over evil. The projection of this image is widespread and it has been taken up by many immigrants and refugees. The Chief Rabbi's maiden speech in the House of Lords in 1988 is a recent striking tes-

timony to the image of a country blessed with a tradition of toleration, itself an offshoot of the wider tree of liberty.

This image of Britain as a haven which lodges in the psyche of many newcomers is often related to their horrendous experiences at home. In many societies, the persecution of minorities has been of a far different nature to the hostility which immigrants have suffered in Britain.

However, complacency is unwaranted; we need to recognize that on many occasions, toleration has been glaringly absent. It might be lacking yet again if too many concessions are made over entry from Hong Kong. These tensions have mirrored the fears and anxieties which immigration has brought in its train, and which politicians have exploited

and reflected. In the early part of the 20th century the arrival of Jews from Russian Poland produced a campaign which resulted eventually in the 1905 Aliens Act, the first substantial control of alien immigration this century. In the 1960s, fears generated by the arrival of groups from the Caribbean and the Indian sub-continent led in 1962 to the first restrictions by the British government on immigration from the Commonwealth. Later controls, such as those imposed in 1965, 1968, 1971, and 1988, have closed the door even more firmly.

At both popular and official levels – and the two are inextricably linked – debates on immigration have at times been fierce and action has been decisive, but the impact of immigration has been wider than

such issues alone would suggest. Despite the fears and the tensions, there is a positive side to immigration.

Immigrants and refugees have made significant if often unrecognized contributions to British society. Irish labourers played a monumental part in laying the infrastructure of modern Britain. One can hardly overestimate the role of German Jews in the development of the City of London. The influence since 1945 of groups such as the Italians and the Hong Kong Chinese in the service sector cannot be denied.

The cultural contribution of newcomers is also significant. To take one example, the arrival of refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1930s immeasurably enriched British society. A *Times* leader following the death of

Nikolaus Peissel made the point with dramatic force.

In short, immigration has complex consequences, and it seldom occurs without conflict. However, it can confer advantages whether in the short or in the long term. So far, the increase in immigration of ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong since the end of the Second World War has generated relatively little opposition, even if it does not pay to be excessively bullish on this score. But there can be no doubt that with the approach of 1997, the issue of immigration from the colony is unlikely to go away.

One commentator offered advice recently on "Why we must not open the Hong Kong flood-gate". In sharp contrast, another argued for "an acceptable safety net". Yesterday we had our first official indication of how the Government views its obligations towards the Hong Kongers. As a consequence we could encounter Richard Crossman's hot-potato, the issue of immigration, moving once more towards the centre of British politics.

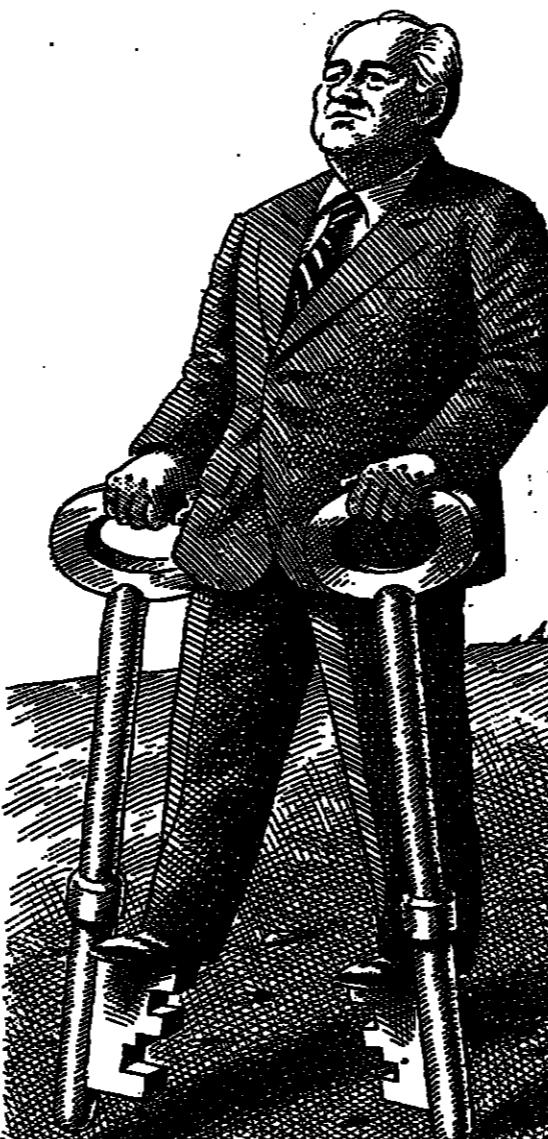
Colin Holmes is Professor of History at the University of Sheffield and author of John Bull's Island: Immigration and British Society 1871-1971 (Macmillan, 1988).

Colin Holmes on the implications of the Hong Kong proposals

Immigration: the issue that could take centre stage

Where liberty still lacks any stature

Bernard Levin offers the Foreign Secretary a case of blatant abuse of human rights which he should raise in his talks with Gorbachov



56 degrees, and there was thick fog. For us prisoners in the Yakutsk camps, things are pretty bad. Here now the cold is terribly severe and one's body freezes to one's jacket. We condemn Communism because it is a result of it everywhere has suffered. May capitalism flourish in the world and may there be freedom and faith in God.

These few lines are for you, my friends. In December we suffered a great loss, with the passing of a great man who had a great and most sensitive heart – Andrei Sakharov. Here in these northern Soviet penal camps he had many sincere friends. Andrei was a MAN who had the courage to stand up to the Soviet totalitarianism.

With me there is no change so far. I am serving time in a "strict regime camp". In these Soviet northern camps they have created all the conditions so that a man can't last out. Here in Yakutsk inside the Arctic Circle in the region of permafrost, of permanent winter temperatures, with dread-

ful food and very hard labour, we have to make and carry heavy concrete blocks, each weighing 30 kgs, and there is no mechanized production. It is all hand work. I am not telling you this to arouse feelings of pity for myself and my fellow prisoners. I simply want you, in your country, to know that sufficient people in the USSR have to undergo for their beliefs and a desire to emigrate. I wish you for the New Year all of the very best. May God help us all!

Mr Gorbitz has no living relative other than an elderly uncle, a chronic invalid, also in Israel. I am sorry for the episodic form of this column, but I must quote from another letter, received early last year by the prisoner's uncle.

It will very soon be seven years since my arrest. I was sentenced to 10 years for nothing. I had never committed any crime... my case is falsified from the beginning to the end, but nobody... reconsiders my case, all the time I receive

right lobby was when I found the instantly recognizable figure of Cyril Smith and followed in his slipstream. A new Labour member will have all sorts of colleagues delegated to be of assistance.

But the BBC newsmen had a

good point: the great British

public is deeply suspicious of

celebrities who wish to go

straight. Even the great East

Anglian Liberal public in the

1970s was apprehensive. When I

was shortlisted for the Isle of Ely

by-election in 1973, there were

only nine members of the associa-

tion to decide between me and

the other applicant. Embarrassed

by this small number, the sec-

ondary was deputed to swell the crowd from an adjacent old people's home... who voted me in by 12 votes to nine.

Old people are in favour of

faces they recognize from tele-

vision. Political activists, on the other hand, feel that you cannot be better than plump for a university lecturer.

At the general election following my victory, both Conservative and Labour went around telling my constituents that it was ignominious for them to be represented by "someone from television". I quintupled my majority. For the next three Parliaments, however, I remained to my political opponents, the MP who used to be on TV, did adverts, nudge-nudge, Club, ho ho.

So what, said I; my Labour

Party opponent is a prison officer.

Ray Wyre calls for imaginative treatment of sex offenders

Don't abuse the abusers

Ever since the 1971 prison riot at Kingston, Ontario, in which a group of sex offenders were tortured and two of them were killed, prison officers have been warning that it was only a matter of time before such an attack occurred in Britain.

The long-standing hostility to sex offenders had already intensified following the trial in 1966 of the Moors Murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley. After their heinous crimes were detailed in the press, there was a tendency to put all sex offenders on a par with sadists who rape and kill children. The tabloid press has continually reinforced this false impression, and the licence to attack sex offenders within prisons has been increasing. The worst fears have been fulfilled with the vicious attacks at Strangeways.

As I said, I do not imagine that Mr Gorbachov has the leisure to investigate every crime against humanity taking place in his realms. And even I would not condemn him for putting aside such matters in view of the hideously complex range of fundamental problems his decaying country poses. Still, he now holds a position which gives him the power (he had the power before, of course, though not formally) to call for anything and anyone and to demand an immediate explanation.

It is, I suppose, just possible that he does not read *The Times*, but we can be sure that Ambassador Zamyatkin does; I positively squirmed with pleasure the other day, at that wonderfully cringing "Good old Gorb" letter, he thought it judicious to write, now that the increasingly free press back home has suggested that he is himself ripe for retribution.

Whatever else Mr Gorbachov is, or may turn out to be, he is not a man who deals in illusions. One glance at the Gorbitz file would be enough for him to see that the entire case was fraudulent. As I say, it is unlikely that he has the time to give it even that plance. But for a very long time now, he has been wisely surrounding himself with like-minded men, and one or two of them must surely be in charge of the monumental and virtually interminable task of sifting through the crimes committed against justice in the years of the greater terror and the less.

Besides, there is profit in it. If Gorbachov wants the rest of the world to think well of him and of his efforts to transform his country – and that he most certainly does – want the righting of a wrong as wicked as the one visited upon Mr Gorbitz, even if it is not accompanied by the punishment of those responsible, would serve his purpose and his image admirably.

Nikolai Butcharin and his associates were put to death by Stalin in 1938, though they were entirely innocent of the crimes they were accused of. Half a century later, almost to the day, their sentences were retrospectively annulled, their fate was denounced as the murder it was, and their names restored to their rightful place in Soviet history.

But they were dead, and could not rejoice in their posthumous rehabilitation. Adolf Gorbitz is alive, though barely, and could give thanks for his. Should he not, now, be given the opportunity to do so?

Such attacks, furthermore, put women and children at greater risk. Knowing what might be in store for him in prison, the sex offender might well go to any lengths, perhaps murder, to avoid arrest. And there is a grave risk that the beaten or tortured prisoner may inflict the same abuse on innocent victims after release. Indeed, I know of ex-prisoners who have killed.

Of course we must not be soft

on sex offenders; in many cases prison is necessary, but the infliction of violence by fellow prisoners is the last thing that will make a man loving, caring and responsible. To allow the impression that attacks on sex offenders are to be condoned, indeed are legitimate, will undermine attempts at rehabilitation and put the public further at risk.

Informed public opinion and changing the climate of understanding is essential. We have to get across the message that sex offenders need treatment both in and out of prison.

In view of the terrible events at Strangeways, the methods of containing prisoners under rule 43 must also be reassessed. The prison service faces difficulties whichever way it turns. If sex offenders are not segregated, they will be at considerable risk. If the prison service pretends that they have been convicted of other crimes, it colludes with their denial and excuses and no treatment can take place. Radio broadcasts make it very difficult to keep the nature of some offences secret, for prisoners listen to local stations avidly, gaining details of those appearing before the courts. It does not take much power of deduction to discover which new admission is a sex offender.

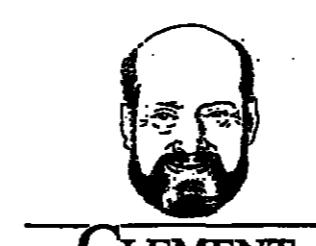
If the prison service were to segregate sex offenders without treating them, they would simply share their fantasies and contrive convenient scapegoats. Experience shows that it is often the inadequate sex offenders, convicted of relatively minor offences, who are the targets of attacks in prison. To give one example, Les, aged 63, was recently jailed for three months for an indecent act – far from rape – with his granddaughter. In court, he said he loved her deeply and wrongly believed she had given consent. The child needs treatment and nothing can excuse his behaviour. Nevertheless, Les is a frail man with cancer, and this is his first time in prison. Yet he was attacked and needed three days in hospital. Does society feel that this helped his grand-daughter? She already felt guilty for reporting him, and now has to live with the knowledge of the attack.

Such attacks, furthermore, put women and children at greater risk. Knowing what might well go to any lengths, perhaps murder, to avoid arrest. And there is a grave risk that the beaten or tortured prisoner may inflict the same abuse on innocent victims after release. Indeed, I know of ex-prisoners who have killed.

The existing system of non-intervention clearly does not work. For too long initiatives have been avoided because we cannot be sure that they will be effective. But until we try them we shall never know. A few new approaches to treatment have been tried, and the evidence is that they have worked. But they need to be developed and supported.

Ray Wyre is director of the Gracewell Clinic, Birmingham, and co-author of *Women, Men and Rape*, published this week by Hodder and Stoughton, £4.99.

Enter member from stage, left



CLEMENT FREUD

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faces they recognize from tele-

vision. Political activists, on the other hand, feel that you cannot be better than plump for a university lecturer.

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So what, said I; my Labour

Party opponent is a prison officer.

make it to Westminster. According to the papers of the day, following Mr Freud's arrival at the Bar of the Chamber, there were ribald (some broadcasts called it humorous) references to the fact that the new MP had been a cook and appeared on a TV commercial. One particularly flat-brained Midlands member punctuated my progress towards the mace with



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

A STOPGAP BILL

The Nationalities Bill presented to Parliament yesterday makes no claim to be a solution to the predicament of Hong Kong's people as they face being handed over to mainland Chinese rule in 1997. The Bill empowers the Home Secretary to restore the full British passports, to which they were all once entitled, to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of household deemed "essential to Hong Kong's stability".

The purpose is blatantly pragmatic, to keep the colony's wheels turning in the twilight of British rule, by giving a bolt-hole insurance policy to important people who would otherwise emigrate, and thus induce them to stay. The criterion for eligibility that accompanies the Bill is unequivocal: the numbers of passports to be allocated to occupational groups will be determined principally by "propensity to emigrate". Eligibility is based on a points system heavily weighted in favour of the most useful (and mobile) age group of those in their thirties.

The moral obligation of post-imperialism is thus reduced to crude opportunism. Yet some sympathy with the Government's predicament over Hong Kong is in order and the Bill does represent an important advance. By removing the requirement to "earn" a passport by taking up residence in this country, it acknowledges the longstanding demand of Hong Kong people for "passports to stay in Hong Kong". The Bill itself is essential, since the mere promise of passports *in extremis* would not have sufficed to stem the emigration. One reason is that the Labour Party refuses to accept any obligation to restore full citizenship to Hong Kong's British subjects.

The Government has been right to vest responsibility for what are bound to be delicate decisions over eligibility in the Governor of Hong Kong. This commits the Home Secretary to accept the Governor's recommendations, subject only to a reserve power to reject them on grounds of bad character.

On the other hand, the Bill makes these eligibility decisions inordinately difficult by setting the total number of passports so low. The best independent estimates of the numbers likely to emigrate between now and 1997, unless they have the security of British or other foreign passports, suggest that six times the present number would be needed to halt an

exodus already under way. The danger, as the Governor of Hong Kong has stated, is that the scheme will prove too modest to generate the critical minimum of confidence.

The issue of numbers has apparently been decided not on advice from the colony but from Government whips in the House of Commons. They in turn have been vulnerable to an attempt to stir latent anti-immigration sentiment by Mr Norman Tebbit and a group of Tory rebels. Their campaign ignores the reality of Hong Kong's plight as comprehensively as it rejects Britain's indubitable obligations to the colony. Mr Tebbit appeals to the Tory manifesto's opposition to mass immigration.

The reality is that, short of a genocidal cataclysm, few people in Hong Kong would wish to come to this country. If such a cataclysm did occur, Britain would be obliged to honour its commitment to the British passport holders — indeed also to those without them, since Britain would, under international refugee protocols, be the country of refuge of first resort.

The rebels hope, possibly with mischievous Labour support, to delay or delay the passage of the Bill through a filibuster aimed at keeping the issue on the front burner into the summer recess and the Conservative Party conference.

As the remaining grains of sand run through Hong Kong's hourglass, these rebels will have helped to bring about precisely the collapse of confidence which would make real the prospect of mass immigration they are now exploiting.

For once, the Foreign Office has held its ground against China's vehement objections to the passport scheme, and firmness has paid off. Peking, which in January threatened to debar British passport-holders from all public office and deprive them of British consular protection, agreed a month later that they could be members of Hong Kong's post-1997 Legislative Council. That should encourage the Government to press ahead, keeping options open should the scheme need extension. Amid all the brouhaha about parliamentary tactics, Britain's obligation in this matter should not be forgotten. It is, as the Government used to say, the long-term welfare of Hong Kong's citizens.

FOR LOVE OR MONEY

The kidneys-for-sale case at the General Medical Council may have ended yesterday, but it did so without resolving the ethical question on which it turned. Once it had decided the facts, the GMC's professional conduct committee had only to apply what is clearly a general consensus among doctors in Britain: that the idea of selling human organs for transplantation is horrific. One leading kidney specialist was ordered to be struck off the medical register — the profession's ultimate censure — and two others, also found guilty of serious misconduct, were placed under formal restriction on their future practice.

The verdict was motivated by the same distaste as persuaded Parliament last year to pass the Human Organ Transplants Act, outlawing the sale of human organs. Parliament was apparently unmoved by the evidence of what is now a booming international trade in organs. The Act may ensure that London does not become the centre of this trade, but it will make little difference to its growth in the rest of the world. There is a demand and a supply; market price will bring them into equilibrium.

Is Britain's aversion to the trade mere squeamishness, a refusal to face up to the fast-changing economics of modern health care? Or are Parliament and the GMC upholding a sound moral principle? Both the Act and the medical code of ethics permit one human being to donate a kidney or similar organ to another, for nothing, if they are related by blood or marriage. Most people would regard the donation of a kidney in such circumstances as noble. Indeed the more people who are encouraged to consent to organ donation after their own death, the better. In America, blood can be sold for profit — though blood is replaceable, whereas kidney removal is technically self-mutilation.

It is thus praiseworthy for a loving father to donate his kidney to his daughter. But suppose she has some other medical condition, to

which a kidney transplant is not relevant. What is morally wrong in his selling to a third party the kidney he would willingly have donated to her, in order to raise money to pay for her medical treatment for this other condition?

This argument is persuasive but stands at the top of a slippery slope. The hard case of the hypothetical father and daughter (which is not so far from the evidence considered by the GMC) obviously deserves sympathy rather than outrage. But hard cases make bad law. To make the principle that organ transfers should be motivated by family affection and charity but not by profit dispensable in special circumstances would plainly undermine it altogether. It would soon justify the sale of organs for a good cause whatever the destination of the sale price: a peasant to stop his family starving, a businessman to stop his factory closing, even a student to pay for his education. Ultimately, the concept of motive would be abandoned and self-mutilation (possibly not wholly voluntary self-mutilation) would become a commonplace last resort.

In permitting organ transfer where no money changes hands, the new Act and the medical consensus have moved away from a morally absolutist high ground; that there are some things concerning their own body to which people may never morally or lawfully consent. That is a situational morality to which most would now subscribe. But a line does need to be drawn between different sorts of motive, and the authorities appear to have drawn it correctly: there are some motives for self-mutilation which ought to be ruled out, others which are legitimate. Mutilation for profit falls into the former category, for charity into the latter. It may seem a sentimental distinction in this no-nonsense age. But a sophisticated society is one which knows how to draw lines of subtle moral distinction. Here is one such line.

KING BAUDOUIN'S DAY OFF

The abdication early yesterday of the Belgian monarch, Baudouin I, might have been an act of self-sacrifice by a king who had chosen to place his conscience before his legal obligations. His expected restoration a day later by parliamentary fiat is, however, unprecedented. It will leave behind a constitutional shambles: rarely good for monarchies.

To renounce a throne in favour of an heir has often proved a prudent policy for constitutional monarchs in an age of popular sovereignty. But a throne which commands widespread national — and international — respect is not an office like any other, to be resigned and then resumed at the whim of the other organs of the constitution. Modern monarchy depends on gentle bending to the winds of democracy, not suddenly cracking before them. The "dignified" parts of the constitution cannot retain that dignity if their actual subordination to the "efficient" parts is so destructively demonstrated.

To the question of whether a similar crisis could arise in Britain, more than one answer is possible. The unwritten constitution is unclear on the ultimate source of royal authority. There is no true parallel with the Counsellors of State who perform the duties of the sovereign while she is abroad.

The occasion for the Belgian conflict was an abortion Bill: an issue which engaged the King's moral and religious convictions to the maximum extent. In Britain, the monarch is also the supreme governor of the Church of England. The middle way is the essence of Anglicanism and, for this reason alone, a British monarch is unlikely to find him or herself forced to choose between obedience to

the canons of the established church and the constitutional obligation to assent to a Bill passed by Parliament.

Nevertheless, it is certainly conceivable that a monarch of passionately held principles — such as the Prince of Wales has, to his credit, shown himself likely to be — might find himself expected to assent to a Bill against which his conscience rebelled. In such a case, a temporary regency like that of George III's reign might be a theoretical possibility.

However, that regency was not a constitutional fiction, but was necessitated by the incapacity of the King; only thus was it a tolerable expedient. In the case of the abdication of Edward VIII, it never arose. His choice lay between conformity to convention and loss of the throne.

By a nice paradox, the Belgian monarchy was the product of 1830, a year of revolutions. In Britain, the monarch's constitutional pedigree is somewhat different. The "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 preceded the triumph of the principle of popular sovereignty, and the British monarchy thus survived into modern times with its prerogatives substantially intact, even if dormant.

Despite the incessant invasion of royal privacy, the British still shroud their monarchs with a veil of sacral mythology. There is about them still a faint echo of their ancestors, *les rois thaumaturges* with their healing touch. Constitutional devices of the Belgian variety are incompatible with an institution of this kind. The British would sooner declare a republic than subject their monarchy to such an ignominious political device.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changes to the charge that everyone loves to hate

From Mr David Kemp, QC
Sir, Your leading article on March 29 postulated a possible Government retreat back to the old rating system. May I suggest a modification?

The rate payable on a dwelling house should comprise two components. The first would be a rate calculated, as now, on its rateable value. The second would be a standard charge, fixed from time to time by central government, in respect of every person resident in the house. It should be a modest amount, say £100. The total sum would constitute the rate payable in respect of the dwelling house and recoverable in the same way as under the old rating system.

The advantages would lie in the ease of collecting and recovering the rate, and in the fact that, while the rateable value component would broadly reflect the payer's ability to pay, the standard charge component would broadly reflect the use made by the household of services provided by the rates.

The payer's reaction to the amount of the rateable value component, determined by the local authority, should provide a sanction against excessive expenditure by the local authority.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

From Mr Henry Law
Sir, As you pointed out in your leading article, a brave and wise government would reinstate the rating system in 1991. Sooner or later, this must happen, because every attempt to modify the community charge will create fresh poverty traps. The system would then be continually under revision as anomalous cases came to light and the legislation amended to take account of them, spawning, in turn, new anomalies.

Reinstatement of the former rating system should, however, be regarded only as a stop-gap measure. It was, indeed, a roof tax, and had the grave disadvantage that improvements were penalised; in the case of domestic property, higher rates would be payable on a house with central heating and a garage than on a property which was identical *apart* from possessing these amenities, whilst the owner of a derelict shell would be exempt from payment altogether. The uniform business rate still suffers from the same disadvantage, since fixed equipment and plant is included in the valuation.

The rating of buildings is, in fact, an unnecessary complexity, since sufficient revenue can be raised by basing the valuation on the land alone. Under this arrangement, known as site value rating, the majority of the present raters would pay less because vacant sites and under-developed and agricultural land, not at present included in the rating base, would be brought into the system. Every resident and every activity uses or occupies land, either directly or indirectly, and a rate based on the value of used or occupied land would be paid, directly or indirectly, by every citizen.

Site value rating is now the only practicable alternative to the community charge and the unified business rate, and the sooner that all of the main political parties realise this, the better. Legislators need look no further than the London Rating (Site Values) Bill 1939, which spelled out the working details for implementing a system of site value rating. Only minor amendments would be required to adapt it to present day conditions.

Yours,
HENRY LAW,
19 Queen's Gardens,
Brighton, Sussex.

Threat to Down

From Mr Robin Crane
Sir, Further to your Agriculture Correspondent's report (April 2) highlighting the continued destruction of chalk grassland on the South Downs by ploughing, the resources available to carry out essential management work on the few remaining sites of rich biological interest are inadequate. The Environmentally Sensitive Area incentive scheme does not address the long-term nature conservation needs.

Small payments to farmers under tier 1 of the EEA scheme for retaining grasslands are welcome, but are often paid to areas already protected or for sites too steep to plough, where scrub is encroaching through lack of grazing in the past. No funds are available for clearing the scrub, which is gradually taking over from the flower-rich chalk sward.

Where higher payments under tier 2 have been paid for conversion of arable to grass, that land is usually being ploughed with clover/rye mixture of little more conservation value than the arable it has replaced. At the end of the five-year period farmers concerned at the dropping fertility may wish to replough.

What is required is a scheme to encourage selected areas to be planted with fescue mixtures and retained for the many years it will take for rich chalkland sward to develop as fertility declines.

One of the advantages of the South Downs being declared a national park would be that its authority would be in a strong position to establish a long-term strategic plan for wildlife protection and restoration.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CRANE (Chairman),
Sussex Wildlife Trust,
Harrowden, West Sussex.

Letters to the Editor

From Mr Neville H. Lee
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr John Trenchard (March 30), has contrived a view that will add to existing confusion and cause unwarranted alarm to landlords and tenants. Landlords have always paid general rates on vacant furnished property available for letting. Since April 1 they have been liable to the standard charge while premises are empty.

Landlords seeking rents above market levels will suffer void periods and will pay the standard charge. The cost in lost rent alone for a void of one week is equivalent to an annual rent reduction of 1.9 per cent; a void of one month is equal to a reduction of 8.3 per cent.

Under the community charge, tenants will, with certain exceptions, pay the personal charge, subject to relief for those on low incomes. The standard charge will only be collected from tenants who occupy a rented property as a second home. No abstruse calculations are necessary since, whatever view is taken on community charge legislation as a whole, the responsibility for payment of the different types of charge and the rate and liabilities of letting agents are clearly defined.

Tenancies of property owned by companies financed by business expansion schemes are assured tenancies and offer tenants long-term security of tenure. Assured shorthold tenancies, a different animal altogether, are used where

dealing with the situation. Repeated rushes by the riot police and officers on horseback seemed only to achieve an increase in the injuries amongst both civilians and police and greater hostility from the demonstrators.

I do not defend the activities of all the protesters, but I remain stunned by the appalling behaviour of certain police officers, the total mismanagement of the situation by the police strategists, and the complete failure of the media to reflect this sad aspect of the day.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN M. BEVAN,
61 Oakleigh Crescent, N20.

From Sir Alfred Sherman
Sir, Alan Ryan's call for civil disobedience over the community charge ("The right to disobey", April 3) is the height of irresponsibility. The right to disobey unjust laws can be considered only in *extremis* — e.g., the Nuremberg laws. The community charge is merely a way of redistributing the total burden of domestic taxation to finance local government.

The violence perpetrated on Saturday was inexcusable because of its inhumanity, but it was probably inevitable precisely because of this lack of a genuine democracy. The poll tax is just one of a series of measures that are creating in this country an underclass, a section of the population for whom there is no hope of anything beyond grinding poverty and the daily struggle to make ends meet.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. ROOTES,
6 Summer Hill,
Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.

From Mr Robin M. Bevan
Sir, On the evening of Saturday, March 31, I was variously described by newscasters, senior politicians and police officers as "a mindless hooligan", "a stone and bottle throwing youth", "a Marxist agitator", or "a member of either the SWP, Militant, or an anarchist group".

Not one of these descriptions would fit either myself or the majority of people present. No audible request was given at any time by police or stewards to "move on", which given the congestion would have been extremely difficult anyway.

At no time in the afternoon, after the first charge by the police, could I perceive anything approximating to a sensible strategy for

of parole that neither I nor any of us would have countenanced.

The production of plays stopped abruptly when a very large number of French officers arrived, moved from camps further east. They were crowded into every available space including the theatre.

Not so long afterwards, the Americans took Colditz and we were free. I did not see my sewing machine again. I look forward to visiting Colditz as a tourist and doing so.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. E. HAMILTON-BAILIE,
Rectory House,
Stanford-in-the-Vale,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

and an initially toothless CSCE will offer no substitute.

Chancellor Kohl's solution is to weld Germany irrevocably into the only framework which offers stability in the foreseeable future, the European Community. To make doubly sure, as did Schröder before him, he wants its bonds so tight that no conceivable successor could untie them.

Your leader ignores both that option and his intention; the Prime Minister, whose stance you applaud, appears firmly to reject them — for reasons which regrettably bear more resemblance to the nationalism of which you are afraid than to the kind of leadership of which she is capable.

If "Germany disposes", it is not clear what your distinguished paper, or for that matter the Government, proposes.

Yours faithfully,
J. LEITCH,
8 Chester Square Mews, SW1.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (0171) 782 5046.

Use of dye for spinal scans

From Dr J. L. G. Thomson
Sir, Clamour against Glaxo Laboratories, manufacturers of Myodil — the dye which, until it was withdrawn in 1987, was used for injecting patients requiring back scans — is reaching near hysterical levels.

The judge in the test case (report, March 13) is quoted as saying that alleged Myodil victims form "a potentially enormous group" and the firm of solicitors dealing with the claims as saying that these claims could exceed £150 million. Perhaps it is time that some of Myodil's lesser-known advantages were recalled.

Myodil was introduced into this country in the early 1940s and hailed as a significant advance over previous substances, all of which had produced unacceptable toxic side effects. Surgery could not even be considered until accurate localisation of a spinal lesion had been obtained, or alternative treatment prescribed if surgery were thus contra-indicated.

Such an investigation is carried out in an X-ray department on a tilting table, and the procedure is known as myelography. In this country, until the mid and late 1970s, Myodil was the contrast medium used for myelography, in the absence of any alternative or better agent. Many thousands of such investigations were carried out and as a result of the accuracy of this diagnosis hundreds were relieved of such symptoms as, sciatica, brachialgia, paraplegia, quadriplegia, etc. Many more undoubtedly owe their lives to its use.

It was an unexpected tragedy that a relatively few proved to be sensitive to Myodil, and it is right and proper that these victims should claim compensation. However, it may not be easy to distinguish those who, with present-day symptoms, claim that these result from the use of Myodil more than a decade ago.

Doubtless, there will be cases where the cause relationship to Myodil is undisputed. For some others, the recently developed technology of magnetic resonance imaging should be used to assess the presence or absence of adhesions. This entails no injection of any sort, nor does it involve the use of an X-ray beam. It could help in making sure that any award gained in the courts goes to the right people.

Yours etc,
J. L. G. THOMSON,
Bristol Magnetic Resonance
Imaging Centre,
Frenchay Hospital,
Bristol, Avon.

From the Chargé d'Affaires of Cuba
Sir,

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

your Lord and Teacher. You have just washed your feet. You then should wash one another's feet. John 13: 14

BIRTHS

ANNE - On April 1st, to Anne (de Giney) and Stephen, a son, Christopher Guy, a son, Andrew. **ASABEL** - On Monday April 2nd, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a son to Sarah (de Fofu) and John, a brother for Charlotte. **ANNE** - On March 27th, 1990, to Vicki and David, daughter, Katherine Anne (Gale), a sister for Matthew, and a son, Edward. **BROWN** - On April 3rd, to Jeff and Emily, a daughter, Anna Felicia, a brother for Charlotte. **ANNE** - On April 4th, 1990, to Vicki and David, daughter, Katherine Anne (Gale), a sister for Matthew, and a son, Edward. **CAMPBELL** - On April 3rd, to Sarah (de Petto) and Andrew, a son, Edward James, brother to William, a son, Michael, a son, James. **CAMPBELL** - On April 3rd, to Andrew (de Petto) and Andrew, a son, Edward James, brother to William, a son, Michael, a son, James. **CHESTER** - On April 2nd, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a son, Andrew (de Petto) and Gavin, a son, Ian Reid. **CHEVANTINI** - On April 3rd, to Christian and Adriana, a son, **EVANS** - On April 4th, to St. Bolla and Simon, a son, **EVANS** - On April 4th, to The Portland Hospital, to Anne (de Millich) and Philip, a son, brother for Caroline and Rosina. **FALE** - On March 16th, to David (de St. John) and Michael, a son, Arthur Roderick, a brother for Peter. **JOHN** - On April 4th, 1990, to Anne (de Millich) and Philip, a son, Richard James, a brother for Michael and Anna. **MARSHALL** - On April 4th, to The Portland Hospital, to Michael and Anna, a son, James. **MARSHALL** - On April 3rd, to Lucy (de Millich) and Philip, a son, Nicholas Hugh, a brother for Andrew. **SHAW** - On March 31st, at Queen Mary's, to Christopher, to Caroline (de Baboum) and Gemma (de Townsend) and Stephen, a son, Angus. Stephen Richard, a brother for Philip. **ROCKELL** - On March 26th, 1990, to Patrick and Jill (de Chester), a brother for Christopher, a son, Lucy Elizabeth. **ROCKELL** - On March 29th, at St. George's, to Gemma (de Townsend) and Stephen, a son, Angus. Stephen Richard, a brother for Philip. **WALKER** - On April 3rd, 1990, to The Portland Hospital, to David (de Luttrell) and Richard, a son, Jack Charles. **WALKER** - On April 4th, to David (de Luttrell) and Richard, a son, Jack Charles. **WALKER** - On April 17th, to David (de Luttrell) and Richard, a son, James Laurence.

DEATHS

ALLAN - On April 3rd, 1990, peacefully at home after a short illness, Lucie Mary, of Yester, and Lympstone, Devon. **ALLAN** - On April 3rd, 1990, Hamlet, Requiem Mass at St. Swithun's Catholic Church, Yester, on Tuesday April 10th, 1990, at 11.00 am. Private cremation. **ALLAN** - On April 10th, 1990, at St. Peter's Church, Yester, a son, James Laurence.

BROOKHURST - On April 2nd, 1990, peacefully at home in Vina del Mar, Chile; Albert Louis, beloved husband of Diana and much loved father of Tim. **BROOKHURST** - On April 2nd, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a son to Sarah (de Fofu) and John, a brother for Charlotte. **BROOKHURST** - On April 2nd, 1990, to Vicki and David, daughter, Katherine Anne (Gale), a sister for Matthew, and a son, Edward. **CAMPBELL** - On April 3rd, to Sarah (de Petto) and Andrew, a son, Edward James, brother to William, a son, Michael, a son, James. **CHESTER** - On April 2nd, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a son, Andrew (de Petto) and Gavin, a son, Ian Reid. **CHEVANTINI** - On April 3rd, to Christian and Adriana, a son, **EVANS** - On April 4th, to St. Bolla and Simon, a son, **EVANS** - On April 4th, to Andrew (de Petto) and Andrew, a son, Richard James, a brother for Michael and Anna. **MARSHALL** - On April 4th, to The Portland Hospital, to Michael and Anna, a son, James. **MARSHALL** - On April 3rd, to Lucy (de Millich) and Philip, a son, Nicholas Hugh, a brother for Andrew. **SHAW** - On March 31st, at Queen Mary's, to Christopher, to Caroline (de Baboum) and Gemma (de Townsend) and Stephen, a son, Angus. Stephen Richard, a brother for Philip. **ROCKELL** - On March 26th, 1990, to Patrick and Jill (de Chester), a brother for Christopher, a son, Lucy Elizabeth. **ROCKELL** - On March 29th, at St. George's, to Gemma (de Townsend) and Stephen, a son, Angus. Stephen Richard, a brother for Philip. **WALKER** - On April 3rd, 1990, to The Portland Hospital, to David (de Luttrell) and Richard, a son, Jack Charles. **WALKER** - On April 4th, to David (de Luttrell) and Richard, a son, Jack Charles. **WALKER** - On April 17th, to David (de Luttrell) and Richard, a son, James Laurence.

MATHINAWT

- On April 2nd, Mrs

Doris E. Hudson,

of 106, 2nd Avenue,

Woolton, Merseyside,

peacefully at home.

MCNAUL - On April 2nd, Mrs

Patricia (de Fofu) and

John, a son, **MCNAUL**

- On April 2nd, 1990,

peacefully at home,

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SCULPTURE FOR THE

"UNDERGROUND"

ST. JAMES'S PARK STATION

With characteristic enterprise and discrimination, the Underground allowed the architect — Messrs. Adams, Holden and Pearson — of their new headquarters at St. James's Park Station to arrange one of the most important applications of sculpture to architecture of recent years. The building, which is rapidly nearing completion, is planned as a Latin cross — with the steeple pointing east to Trafalgar Street — upon a triangular base of two storeys, the arms being set back in stages from 80 feet above the ground to a central tower, which will rise to a total height of 180 feet.

It was decided that all decoration

should be concentrated in sculpture, with the general idea of employing the full range of contemporary younger talent. Seven sculptors were chosen, Mr. Jacob Epstein (who was commissioned to execute figures representing "Day" and "Night" on the outer faces of the base) and Mr. Eric Gill, Mr. Alan Wyon, Mr. A.H. Gerard, Mr. Eric Amonter, Mr. F. Rabimovich, and Mr. Henry Moore, who were entrusted with figures symbolizing the "Winds" — eight in all — high up on the faces of the arms of the cross. As a very experienced craftsman, Mr. Gill was made leader of the team for the "Winds", and has himself executed three of the figures. Mr. Epstein's figures — "Day" represented by a man with a boy between his knees, and "Night" by a woman of mysterious

type with an infant on her lap — both seated on the step which divides the first from the ground floor storey, will not be completed for a month or so... The other figures ... are now uncovered and in full view.

Speaking generally, the enterprise can be called a conspicuous success.

In the first place the figures — 96 in length by 36 in depth, the highest relief being about 9in — make decorative patterns exactly where they are wanted on a building which relies otherwise for ornament entirely upon its fenestration ... The figures, all in an outward flying — or perhaps swimming — attitude, two male and the rest female, were all carved directly and without "pointing" from the model, in the Portland stone which faces the building. Individually the figures vary a good deal in success. The two by Mr. Eric Gill on the eastern faces of the transverse arms, in full view from Trafalgar Street, are by far the best; in exactly the right quality of relief, as decided by shadow, and well related to the building by more or less horizontal folds of drapery, which serves the further purpose of backgrounding the figures. Mr. Gill's third figure, a man, is on the northern face of the head of the cross, and is obscured from the ground by other buildings.

Each of the other figures is good in some respects, but leaves something to be desired in others. Mr. Wyon's, also a man, on the southern face of the head of the cross, is best related to the building, but not very clear in design. Mr. Gerard's — on the west face of the south transverse arm — is in a good style of relief, perpendicular to the wall, but is marred in composition and checked in movement by the disposition of an arm across the body; the work of Mr. Rabimovich — on the south face of the shaft — is very well designed, but looks emphasis upon the planes of the figures, and that by Mr. Moore — on the north face of the shaft — though well modelled, is too bulky and suffers from the lack of drapery to connect it with the lines of the building. But the idea of leaving the sculptors free to work in their accustomed "idioms" — from the classic, as represented by Mr. Wyon, to the "post-Rodinique" of Mr. Moore — was undoubtedly a good one, and the scale of the figures is exactly right for the building.

Charles Holden (1875-1960) de-

signed many admired Underground

stations for London Transport. That

at 55 Broadwick, which combined

headquarters offices and St. James's

Park Station, was embellished with

sculpture by such famous artists as

Epstein, Eric Gill and Henry Moore. Peacock wrote that their work was seen as revolutionary at the time and Holden had "to use his perception to hold them [the reliefs] accepted".

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Vera Lustig talks to playwright Nick Dear about the problems and rewards involved in adapting the work of other authors

Faithful, not slavish

There is a glint of menace and a whisper of erotic promise to "I'll meet the moonlight, proud Titania" — in the original, that is. Translated word-for-word into Catalan, it comes out blunt, unsexy and defeating. I discovered this when I saw a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Barcelona in 1977. That was less than 18 months after Franco's death, so the production was an affirmation of long-suppressed Catalan identity and culture.

As the regional languages of Spain were proscribed, there was no great flowering of writing during Franco's regime. Oddly, in order to bring foreign plays to life, a country needs a pool of indigenous playwrights to adapt them.

That pool needs to be fairly large. As the playwright Nick Dear points out: "I'm often asked to do adaptations, but I refuse if I don't feel a special sympathy with the play." Dear's three stage adaptations to date are of Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (to be seen on the National's Olivier stage next year), his highly successful adaptation of Ostrovsky's *A Family Affair*, staged by Cheek by Jowl in 1988, and now *Tirso de Molina's* 17th-century drama, *El Burlador de Sevilla*, under the title *The Last Days of Don Juan*.

"I'm a playwright who also happens to do adaptations, not an adaptor," Dear insists. "I do adaptations when I want to learn something — broad principles of playwriting rather than how to write a line. With *A Family Affair* I

was keen to try drawing-room comedy, and with the *Tirso* I wanted to learn how to whack the action along."

Other writers who also do adaptations include Christopher Hampton, Tom Stoppard, Michael Frayn, Tony Harrison and Frank McGuinness. In some cases, economics may play a part in the decision to intersperse "original" plays with adaptations, for writing plays is a lengthy and often un-lucrative business. "Another alternative is to write for a television serial," Dear says. "But doing that kind of work is damaging to a writer's skills."

Even among "original" plays, there are degrees of originality. Dear points out that Shakespeare plundered Holinshed's *Chronicles* and the stories of Boccaccio. Still, in the case of adaptations, the playwright does have the skeleton of a text to work on. "Adaptors don't have to be linguists," Dear explains. "For *The Last Days of Don Juan* the RSC commissioned a line-by-line translation from Kate Littlewood. Colin Chambers [the RSC's literary manager] asked me what instructions I had for Kate, and I asked for something as clear and unadorned as possible. I also had a Spanish dictionary."

By contrast, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* has been translated into English many times before. Comparing those translations gave Dear insights into earlier generations' sense of comedy. "French's Acting Edition is a 1950s translation by Miles Malleson. It's very strange. After every punchline, another character says

"What?" and the punchline is repeated. Very Ealing comedy."

Even the best adaptations lose their lustre with time. Tony Harrison's reworking of Molière's *Le Misanthrope* gleamed like fresh paint at its premiere in 1973. A revival last year was in 1950s costumes; while Neil Bartlett's recent version rooted the play once more in the here and now.

Dear is aware that adaptations and translations are far more ephemeral than their originals. "Michael Meyer's translations of Ibsen seem very old-fashioned now, full of 'frightfully'. The life span of a translation or adaptation is usually about 10 years, with exceptions like Schiller's translations of Shakespeare, which have become definitive texts in their own right. When the next adaptation of *El Burlador* comes out, it will feel odd. I do feel proprietorial about the play. I sense that I have a direct line to it, because I've spent so long rewriting every line."

He seems to choose his directors with as much care as he does the plays he adapts. Danny Boyle's production of *The Last Days of Don Juan* is set in 17th-century Naples and Spain. "You mustn't make it too modern and colloquial," Dear says. "It's partly set at court, with people calling each other 'Sire'." There is, though, some rougher language from a less courtly character.

There is no attempt to render the complex verse of the original, and Dear has changed the ending,



Nick Dear: an adaptation requires special sympathy for a play

which he found abrupt and anti-climactic. But he has not tampered with the play's stern message, that there is no last-minute salvation for the sinner. "It's a very religious play — *Tirso* was a monk — and though I don't share his views, they're what drive the play."

Dear sees *Don Juan* not as a 40-year-old Casanova, but as a young, immature man; he has also expanded the women's roles. "*Tirso* never lets us know what becomes of those women after *Don Juan* has ravished them."

Wagnerian longing

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

LPO/Rattle
Festival Hall

A COUPLE of years ago Simon Rattle conducted the closing scene of *Die Walküre* in Birmingham, and had one longing for him to do more Wagner. After another performance of the same chunk with the London Philharmonic, that wish can only be felt more keenly. Wagner conducting of this dynamism — I am thinking especially of the "Ride of the Valkyries", which was spliced to the end of the scene — demands to be heard with some sonic *rasse*.

The Brünnhilde was Rita Hunter, startlingly youthful in tone and taking effective care to show her resources to best advantage, though the phrases no longer unfold quite so effortlessly, and just towards the end she began to be covered by the orchestra. Willard White was Wotan as he was in Birmingham: asty dark and severe in conveying divine anger, but then opening out into a smoother, larger manner, even if his memory attempt at intimacy caused him some problems. With all those wind players assembled, Rattle took the opportunity to programme Messiaen's monumental *El Espiritu Resucitacion Mortuorum* which, as usual with him, was majestically slow, solemn and sustained.

Moreover, seeing the in-

Having fun, naturally

Stephen Pettitt

Maxwell Davies
Children's Day

Queen Elizabeth Hall

IF MEMORY serves, the last time I encountered Chase Side Primary School, Enfield, was either as centre-forward for my own primary school's football team or as a member of a rival choir in the local music festival. Schools make music less formally these days. These children — magnificently robed and daubed as spacemen, monsters, and toys that spring to life — clearly had great fun with their performance: a world premiere, no less, of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's new extravaganza, *Jupiter Landing*, as part of Children's Day in the South Bank's Maxwell Davies celebration.

The music is simple, but not too simple. Davies knows how far he can stretch young musicians, how to tap natural musical instincts. Time and again throughout the day we witnessed that in Act II of *Cinderella*, for instance, which was performed (sometimes shakily but with determination) by the Wandsworth Children's Opera Group; in the *Songs of Hoy*, enthusiastically sung and beautifully danced by pupils of Nightingale Primary School, Hangerley, and St Michael's Primary School, N22; and in *The Great Bank*.

Perhaps the loveliest thing of the day, however, was Hannah Steel's playing of the piano piece *Farewell to Stromness*: simple, poignant, and nostalgic. In the evening concert, Davies returned to conduct the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in a programme that included the English premiere of his Third Strathclyde Concerto, a work which tests the technique of its soloists — Robert Cook (horn) and Peter Franks (trumpet) — to the full, and which is a compelling, beautifully coloured struggle for supremacy and reconciliation. This performance was dazzling and eloquent; no less so was that which followed of Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony.

Surprised by success

John Percival

Les Ballets Jazz
Sadler's Wells



THE name Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal was apparently enough to pull into Sadler's Wells a packed house for a company previously unknown here. So perhaps I should not complain that it lacks precision. Were we to see the kind of dancing known as jazz ballet, or ballets done to jazz music? It turned out to be something of each, with the word "jazz" rather liberally interpreted.

It seems odd to start with a work called *Adieu*, but luckily the title appears to have little relevance.

Richard Levi's choreography is a series of routines such as you might see in a humdrum musical,

to a run of the mill soundtrack by Pat Metheny.

Brian Macdonald's *Big Band*, which closes the bill, is a superior version of the same genre, much more slick and professional in its choreography, benefiting from an attractive, easy-listening accompaniment of Stan Kenton recordings. In this piece the dancers clearly encouraged to sell their personalities for all they are worth, give vigorous, hard-hitting performances.

The company goes in for sexist stereotypes. Macdonald's duet to "I'm So in the Mood", casts the woman as the one wanting to be wooed, although the lyric is sung by a man. This is nothing to the unpleasantness of Lynne Taylor-Corbett's *Appearances* in which

It is a comic trio for a woman (Hui Fang Zhang) and two men (Aaron Shields, Ewan Sivik). Their joints are articulated like those wooden models meant to help artists with figure studies, their hair is frizzy, like Technicolor dolls — Silvia Shaham gets no programme credit for her costume designs. The dances sustain the wit ingeniously, the performances might benefit from less clowning, but are bright and enjoyable.

24 April — 5 May

SADLER'S WELLS

Gaudy parade of Jacobean beasts

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Volpone
Almeida



THE thinking behind this production is not hard to uncover. Why give a premiere to another earnest attack on greed and riotous consumerism when Ben Jonson wrote the quintessential play on the subject some 350 years ago? Why limit yourself to savaging stock-broker Jones or merchant banker Smith when their archetypes exist in his dramatic zoo, complete with names translatable as fox, fly, vulture, raven, crow?

It was presumably to emphasize Jonson's lasting power that Nicholas Hytner elected to play anachronistic games with Venice's space-time continuum. In his production, Ian McDiarmid's Volpone wears plausibly Jacobean furs and breeches. Denis Lawson plays Mosca, sidekick to this coman, as a canny toyboy in black plastic trousers and green bomber jacket. There is even a hero — Marc Warren's Bonario — who dresses as a cricketer, waves a tennis racket and carries a dagger. A chronological identity crisis.

The danger is a fussy, attention-getting evening, and in some respects that is the result. Given the Almeida's minuscule stage, one would think it wise for director and designer to go for visual sparingness. Instead, they fill it with safes, trunks, packing cases, over which the actors must clamber

after wading across a brackish moat swimming with cigarette boxes and other detritus. Symbolic, yes — but it was more distracting than practical.

Yet there are times when Hytner opts for the clean and to-the-point. By way of concentrating attention on Volpone and his victims, he has cut the wordy subplot involving the nosy Sir Politick Would-be and his exasperating wife; and I, for one, cannot regret the loss. More to the point, he can get an actor to bring coquettishness sharply to life.

Philip Locke makes a parchment-faced Volpone, a deadly Dickensian lawyer who might have spent a lifetime arguing some Venetian Jarndyce versus Jarndyce. Cyril Shaps's balding, Corbaccio dodgers myopically across the stage, squawking high, querulous demands. Timothy Walker's Corvino, who is by far the most obviously birdlike of these scavengers, caws and shrieks with rage or with ferocious glee

from inside his pin-striped suit.

Yet it is Volpone, who foxes them all with his phoney deathbed promises, who really matters; and McDiarmid certainly looks the part, with his bony predator's snout and the reddish hair weirdly sprouting from his bare torso as well as his head. More questionable is his interpretation, which substitutes malevolent puritanism, a delight in exposing others' avarice, for the majestic self-indulgence Jonson surely wanted. McDiarmid is always riveting; but the famous line: "the Turk is not more sensual in his pleasures than will Volpone", should come from a destructive Falstaff, not a corrupt Cromwell.

It is an uneven production which still has striking moments. Suddenly a vast强box opens, to reveal a vault out of which gold dust flutters, golden light floods, and from which Volpone's gaunt retinue take gold coins and perform a spoof eucharist. Now there is an image that crosses the aeons.

Shows with conviction

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

IN THE murky aftermath of *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, "trial by television" has again become a catchphrase. It is used by politicians and the legal establishment to discredit independent research teams working to cameras, especially when the television teams come up with fresh evidence which, to say the least, creates real doubt about the safety of a conviction.

But this is not a trial: the viewer is not being asked to judge guilt or innocence, merely whether or not there is cause for reopening a case which may have been closed too quickly, like the cell doors on the prisoners concerned. A pioneer in this field has been David Jessel's *Rough Justice*, which has just returned to BBC 1. At least three wrongfully convicted men owe their freedom to it. Last night the programme for the first time considered a rape, that of a Swedish tourist in North London who may have been so distressed by her experience as to identify not just the wrong assailant but also the wrong location.

There is clearly much fear in the judiciary that television is undermining its authority, but to ignore the evidence of programmes like *Rough Justice* simply because it has come through channels connected to a serial rather than a police station is dangerously complacent.

It was a bad night for drama and the arts, in that we lost both *Never*

tailored to such "common" tastes. He is sure that we are far too sophisticated otherwise to enjoy his jokes which are, by any standard, terrible. To prove it, he tells some, and they are.

Only slightly abashed, and somehow having filled an hour, he confides that he will give us an interval, so that we can have a drink to get up our collective courage for a question-and-answer session in the second half — if we decide to come back. The predominantly young and adoring audience at the Lyric really is too sophisticated, or too much in awe, to give him a proper challenge, so that the impression is of a champion bulldog confronting a flock of uppity sheep.

His pianist, Madam "Sunny" Rogers, is brought on too briefly for some suitably silly songs, and again we are willing victims, even acting out the words to "Three Little Fishies". He is not all-conquering; a few do not come back after the interval, but those who do are treated to a masterpiece in humour.

All the time the audience is being seduced and subverted, so that it seems perfectly reasonable to "la la la" the tune of "Happy Days Are Here Again" as his entrance music, and to imagine ourselves to be a coach-party from a working-men's club, because his act is

an attractive, easy-listening accompaniment of Stan Kenton recordings.

EMBARKED on a three-week run

"in Hounslow" as he puts it, the lugubrious Frankie Howerd goes to extraordinary lengths to delay beginning anything like a conventional comedy act.

He enters as though reluctantly, insisting that he has only come on to apologize for the lack of substance in the entertainment that is to follow. Interruptions (real or imagined) are seized upon as excuses to digress, yet further from the point.

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Enemies: A Love Story, Chicago Joe and the Showgirl, Look Who's Talking, Courage Mountain and All Dogs Go to Heaven

VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

BAGDAD CAFE (Vestron, PG): Percy Adlon's drab and adult culture-clash comedy, with Marianne Sägebrecht as the large middle-class tourist from Bavaria stranded among misfits in the American West. Jack Palance is delicious as a former Hollywood set decorator eager to paint the heroine in the nude. 1988.

BATMAN (Warner, PG): Last summer's blockbuster finally hits the oblong plastic box. Visually diverting, though Jack Nicholson's outrageous Joker swamps Michael Keaton as the Caped Crusader, and the attempts at psychological insight get lost in the jumble of special effects. 1989.

THE CAGE (CIC, U): A foolish but fascinating curiosity — the pilot for *Star Trek*, unseen when the TV show began in 1966, and now released in colour. Dr Spock is here, but the other Enterprise characters were still in the pipeline.

THE COLOR OF MONEY (Touchstone, 15): Scorsese's belated sequel to *The Hustler*, with Paul Newman as the veteran pool shark taking a young hotshot (Tom Cruise) under his wing. A mordant study in need and greed. 1986.

COUSINS (CIC, 15): Social comedy — an American reworking of *Cousin, Cousin*, a French scuffie from 1974; with Ted Danson and Isabella Rossellini as relatives in love. 1989.

KONGA (Warner, PG): Through tampering with its "centroplex", Michael Gough turns a chimp into a monster. Bad but enjoyable British horror yarn with a quaint period flavour. 1983.

THE LAND BEFORE TIME (CIC, U): Cartoon adventures of plant-eating dinosaurs, from the makers of *An American Tail*. Cute, with a "green" tinge. 1989.

MASK (CIC, 15): Peter Bogdanovich's true-life drama about a lively teenager (Eric Stoltz) suffering from extreme facial disfigurement. Skillfully done, though you can get tired of watching a wonderful person being wonderful. 1985.

THE PLANK (Plewick, U): Eric Sykes' hour-long salute to silent comedy with Sykes and Tommy Cooper as two builders transporting a plank. Far less funny than the shorter television original, though the cameo-filled cast try so hard to please. 1987.

POLYESTER (Castle, 18): John Waters, the bad taste king, tipped towards middle-budget respectability in this domestic satire. With Divine as the housewife, and some wonderfully hideous interior decoration. 1981.

Unwitting polygamist: Ron Silver as the Jewish immigrant, Herman, with his third wife Mascha (Lena Olin) in *Enemies: A Love Story*

CINEMA
David Robinson

The best film adaptation to date from Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Enemies: A Love Story*, is also the most substantial film so far in the career of Paul Mazursky as writer, producer, director and (here in a small but telling role) actor.

The discipline of the Singer story precludes such excesses of self-indulgence as marked Mazursky's last film, *Moon Over Parador*, while Mazursky's open-hearted affection for humanity, even at its most flawed, suits Singer's world.

First published in 1972 (it took Mazursky 12 years to get the screen rights), *Enemies: A Love Story* is multi-layered. The plot is the stuff of farce: Herman (Ron Silver), a Jewish immigrant in New York in 1949, finds himself polygynously married to three wives.

The characters and their predicaments, absurd though they may be, have all been shaped by the Holocaust. Herman, having hidden throughout the war, has married the gentle Polish servant girl who sheltered him. His first wife (Anjelica Huston) reappears as from the grave, having been reported a victim in a mass killing. The third wife, Mascha, has survived the camps along with her mother. All of them — except the Gentile who struggles to convert to Judaism — have lost all faith in the old religion and the old morality.

Singer avoids the clichés: these people emerged from the Holocaust still fallible, not miraculously cleansed and sanctified. Although the first wife proclaims herself dead in spirit, they retain their capacities for strength and weakness, folly, dishonesty, love and sensuous appetites.

Actors flourish under Mazursky's loving guidance. Ron Silver, much more impressive here than in the British film *Fellow Traveller*, succeeds in making the wretched Herman almost sympathetic, for all his weakness, mordacity and confusion, as he scuttles between wives in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Staying alive and staying hot

Actor John Travolta, back in favour after years in the critical and commercial doldrums, tells Simon Banner he is reconciled to being famous all his life

strength of a film called *Urban Cowboy* he even looked to have real acting ability. But in a string of best-forgotten pictures including *Two of a Kind*, *Perfect*, and most recently *The Experts*, Travolta not only failed to display much acting talent, but seemed low on the wide-eyed charm which had been his stock in trade.

"You're enforcing me to be defensive because you have a lot of pre-decided viewpoints," Travolta complains. "How can I have a comeback when I haven't stopped working?"

The answer to that, as Travolta surely knows, is that film acting and occupational therapy being different things, keeping busy is not enough. At the end of the Seventies, the boy from New Jersey who had grown up wanting to be a star was routinely being described as the new Gene Kelly and a latterday Fred Astaire. As nimble a dancer as Travolta was, however, in the Eighties he rarely put a foot right.

He did work with Brian de Palmer on an intriguing thriller called *Blow Out*, and on the

Even the four-page wartime newspapers could always find space on the front pages for a good murder story, and the killing in 1944 of a hire-car driver, George Heath, caught the popular imagination under the lurid title of "The Cleft Chin Murder" (which referred to the victim's facial oddity, rather than the technique of the crime). The convicted accomplices were a shabby pair — a 22-year-old G.I. deserter and an 18-year-old stripper. *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl* (Odeon, West End), directed by Bernard Rose and scripted by David Yallow (a writer specializing in criminology) is a speculative reconstruction of their six-day relationship that became a *folie à deux*: Elizabeth Maud Jones (Emily Lloyd) and Karl Gustav Hulten (Kiefer Sutherland) meet

in a Hammersmith cafe. They eagerly accept each other's fantasies: that she is a showgirl called Georgina Grayson and he a Chicago mobster, Ricky Allen.

In Yallow's interpretation, Hulten is drawn to Jones by sexual desire. Excited by his macho boasts and stolen gun, she dares him on to realize his fantasies of violent crime.

The fatal flaw in the script is that it withholds its mysteries too long. The interest of the film should have lain in piecing together, bit by bit, the reality of these two mythomaniacs. Instead, we are left too long to wonder who they are, how she lives, and what his relationship with the US army is. The explanations are kept to the very end, and poured out upon us in the course of the police investigation, too late to recapture interest.

Given this considerable problem, the actors do well enough. Emily Lloyd, from the start, intuited an odd, warped streak behind the apparent chirpiness; Sutherland is more interesting than usual, working with this essentially weak character.

The film-makers strive conscientiously to catch the drab atmosphere of late wartime London, and get most of the detail right. Constraints of budget inevitably show: it looks a very depopulated city, and one gets the feeling that another inch to the right or left and one would fall over the edge of the studio set.

Hollywood's baby boom continues. *Look Who's Talking* (12, Warner, West End), written and directed by Amy Heckerling, pursues a single, cute idea, to give voice to the imagined thoughts of a child from embryo to his first

Travolta: showing his rapport with children in *Look Who's Talking*

good looks, all Travolta probably needs now is better judgement or better advice than he had before. One senses that he will be reluctant to let success slip through his fingers again.

"I hope I'll have another hit before 10 years are up," he says, "but I think I can go on working for between three and 10 years on the strength of *Look Who's Talking*."

Travolta has no objections whatsoever to this return to form and favour being talked about in Hollywood parlance. "Yes," he says, smiling his mesmerizing smile, his eyes suddenly brimming with tears as if he is overcome with emotion. "I'm not gay."

Given his undoubted likeability on screen, as well as his abiding

uttered word. The joke is that, speaking with the mature adult voice of Bruce Willis, little Mikey brings New York cynicism to his first-time perceptions of the world and the grown-ups in his life.

These are his unmarried yuppie mother (Kirstie Alley), his philandering father (George Segal) and a nice young taxi-driver (John Travolta), who gets involved with mother and child after an emergency dash to the maternity ward. In the way of people in romantic comedies, they are rather slower than the audience to recognize the inevitable outcome of it all.

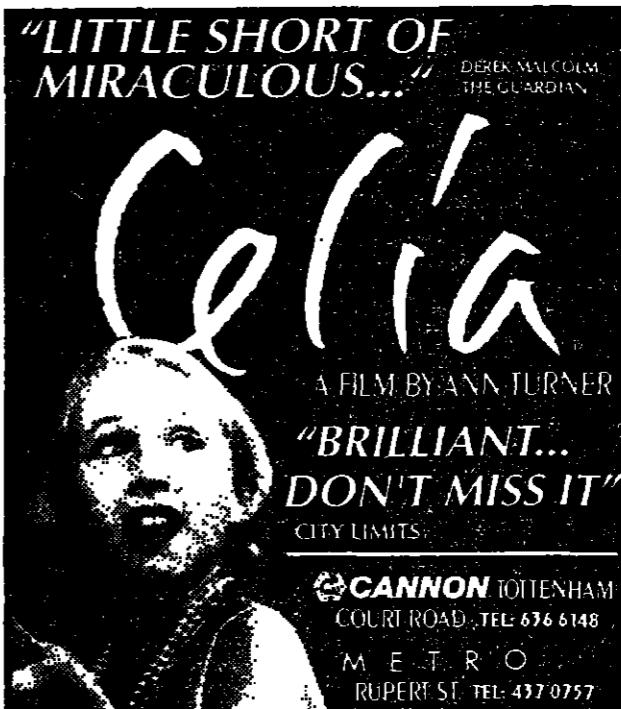
As a simple, one-joke film, it stays funny, even if the four children who in turn play Mikey are disconcertingly dissimilar. Kirstie Alley is a bright, tart personality, and 12 years after *Saturday Night Fever*, John Travolta has matured into an engaging light comedian, playing his due scenes with the babies with particular charm (see interview below).

Johanna Spyri's children's classic, *Heidi*, appeared 110 years ago. Half-a-dozen screen adaptations have included an animated musical, though the best-remembered is the 1937 Shirley Temple version. *Courage Mountain* (U, Cannons Haymarket, Panton St), directed by Christopher Leitch, puts the little Swiss heroine into a time-warp, which lands her in 1915, with the First World War as the latest accident of fate to separate her from her ancient grandfather.

The Swiss mountains are photogenic and there is a promising multinational cast (Leslie Caron, Charlie Sheen, Laura Bettis and a gaggle of British schoolgirls), but all is in vain in face of a dire script by Weaver Webb.

All Dogs Go to Heaven (Odeon, Leicester Square) reaffirms that the Irish-based Sullivan-Bluth animation studios are generally better at graphics than storytelling (*The Secret of NIMH*). This canine cartoon musical muddles together bits of *Carousel*, *Annie* and gangster clichés, to produce a rambling, inconsequential tale about a delinquent dog who is sent back from heaven with a chance to redeem himself by one good deed. Children may well find it as tedious as

Hollywood's baby boom continues. *Look Who's Talking* (12, Warner, West End), written and directed by Amy Heckerling, pursues a single, cute idea, to give voice to the imagined thoughts of a child from embryo to his first



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Sick of hospital food?

The poor quality of hospital meals has prompted renewed calls for improvement. Is money the only problem? Liz Gill investigates

Dr Mike Raynor's favourite example of unhealthy hospital food would be the patient who was wheeled out of intensive cardiac care to be presented with a plate of bacon and eggs; a case, perhaps, of the heart man eating a condemned breakfast.

Dr Raynor, senior research officer with the Coronary Prevention Group, is one of a growing number of professionals who want to see real improvements in hospital nutrition. Last week the Royal College of Nursing congress, which had heard alarming stories of malnutrition among elderly and mentally ill patients, called for written standards in all British hospitals, and their constant and careful evaluation.

Such views lend expert authority to what many patients have felt – at gut level – for years, that they get better in spite of hospital food, rather than because of it.

Dr Raynor believes that the Department of Health should issue dietary guidelines for all public sector catering based on the recommendations of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (Coma) report of 1984. "For instance, in the UK we get 42 per cent of our energy from fat when it should be only 35 per cent," he says. "It's not difficult to turn these specifications into actual quantities of food. The same would apply to Coma's ideas on salt and sugar."

"One can't be authoritarian about these matters and start banning all salt, for example. But there should be a choice. In some hospitals all the options are unhealthy. And I think hospitals should serve an educational purpose. You cannot expect patients to change their eating habits if you don't set an example. Obviously it's crucial if you've had a heart attack, but even if you were going in for an appendix operation, say, it would be a good opportunity to learn that healthy food can be good and tasty."

A survey for the Health Education Authority in 1986 found that most authorities and boards in Britain had adopted a food policy in line with Coma's ideas. The practice, however, may be rather different from the theory. Dr Rosemary Hunt, the HEA's local food policy co-ordinator, is now awaiting the results of a follow-up study carried out last year which looked at how such policies were progressing.

"There are some difficulties with funding or finding the right person actually to implement the policy, and of course there are all the other distractions in the health service at the moment," she says. "Some are very committed, others feel they're swimming upstream."

Even with the best will in the world, hospital catering is fraught with problems, since it must be all things to all patients. On a domestic level it would be comparable to making a meal to please a sick child, a frail grandparent, a mentally ill aunt and the most discerning dinner-party guest. As Ann West, course leader for the Catering and Applied Nutrition degree at Huddersfield Polytechnic, says: "No other caterer would attempt to feed such a range of consumers. Your customers are sick, nervous,



tense. Yet food is often the highlight of their day, something that breaks up the boredom or interrupts nasty treatment. The trouble is that the technical systems we have generally fail to live up to these expectations."

Food is either cooked conventionally at some distance from the ward, or cooked and chilled and then reheated in the ward. Either way, says Mrs West, you can lose "eye appeal" as well as nutritional value.

The course she teaches was in fact created as a response to the damning Platt, Eddy and Pellett report in the Sixties, which painted a "dreadful picture" of hospital food. "They estimated that 50 per cent of it was not eaten because it was so awful," Mrs West says. "I've been visiting hospitals for 20 years now, and I think standards have improved dramatically. At one time you would see people cook something and put it on the trolley at 10.30 in the morning so they could go and have a break. They were cooking for a trolley, not a patient. But I think there's a much more professional outlook now, and a higher calibre of manager. And I'd say the rate of waste is only around 10 per cent."

She believes in offering a choice from which a healthy diet can be selected. "But I don't think it should be forced on people. If they are only in for a few days it's probably more important to give them the comfort of something they enjoy, even if it's fried or sugary. In long-stay hospitals, of course, you can do a lot more in the way of food and diet as preventive measures."

Patients in the private sector generally get more choice and better quality – and pay accordingly. At the Humana Wellington hospital in London, with more than 200 beds, a table d'hôte menu is included in the price of the rooms which range from

£250 to £355. Such menus offer a choice of five starters, five main courses with vegetables and salads and six puddings, comparable in quality to that of a five-star hotel, says Food Services Director, Andrew Neil.

"We see food as an important part of recovery. People pay a lot, so they expect a lot."

An à la carte range – from beefburgers to Beluga caviare – is also available daily at extra cost. "We think our food is basically healthy. But we are not into 'healthy eating' as such, though heart patients would be instructed by our dietitian."

Most NHS hospitals spend between £8 and £12 a week per patient, more in acute wards, less in geriatrics or long-

In strained economic times patients' diets are often regarded as a soft touch'

stay institutions. Kevin Higgins, district catering manager for the Central Manchester Health Authority, gives patients three meals a day plus drinks for £10 each a week. This amount covers the actual cost of food, but not such costs as labour or fuel.

"You have to look at the speciality of the hospital and the patients' needs. Obviously children are going to eat smaller portions than women in the maternity wards, who aren't even ill. Within our budget we try to put nutrition first, and we always consult with the dietitian. Then we try to offer choice, balance, colour, consistency and so on. But I always have to bear in mind that the product has to travel

well – the kitchen is a long way from the ward."

The authority is switching to a cook/chill system later this year where food will be reheated on the wards. It will overcome some disadvantages, though meals will still fall victim to other factors. "You get a consultant doing a late ward round or an emergency crops up and obviously the food has to wait," Mr Higgins says. "But it can be very frustrating when you know you've made something good, and by the time it gets to the patient it's spoilt and they are moaning about it."

Health educationalist Andrew Craig, a member of Wandsworth District Health Authority and a special projects manager of the Royal College of Nursing, points out that food takes on an immense significance in hospital. "It has a symbolic as well as a literal importance. Feeling better is essential for getting better, and if you are given dreary, cold and unappetizing food that can be very depressing."

"You've got to spend a certain amount of money to produce food of sufficient quality and quantity, and many places are simply not spending enough. In strained economic times patients' diets are often regarded as a soft touch."

Caterers can keep costs down by wielding their substantial purchasing power, which enables them to negotiate special deals with suppliers. Most patients, however, would not expect to feed themselves at home for that sort of money, and might well be happy to make a contribution if it meant more enjoyable meals. But Ann West says: "You could ask why patients should eat for nothing in hospital, and I can see that such payments might come, but I wouldn't be happy with it. I think what you eat is part of your whole treatment."

They are the children of the Hull group of Watch, the junior wildlife club of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, and every year, on damp spring evenings, they perform for frogs that service normally associated with old ladies a helping hand across the road.

Dressed in bright yellow overjackets for road safety, and with adults in attendance, they patrol the roads and streets nearby, picking up hundreds of endangered frogs and depositing them safely on the common.

They provide a spawn rescue service when the common dries out, as it has done in the last two very mild winters,

Getting there, however, is far from straightforward. The common runs alongside a busy main road which on damp spring evenings has to be crossed by thousands of frogs who would a-wooing go. Large numbers get no further than a passing set of Dunlop radials and end up two-dimensional; local people talk in terms of a massacre.

Step forward, the Frog Patrol. Fasten jackets. Check torches. Pick up buckets. To the rescue!

The children of Hull make it safe for frogs to go a-wooing

One jump ahead



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Frog friend: Pippa Anderson

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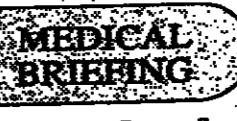
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Drinking their way to a liver transplant



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AT A meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology in Warwick last week, subjects ranging from gallstones to laser surgery for oesophageal cancer were discussed. But such is the public fascination with alcohol that interest at the meeting centred on the changes of attitude towards liver transplantation for alcoholic cirrhosis. Fewer than 900 people die of alcoholic liver disease annually while, for example, five million people in the United Kingdom have gallstones, and 45,000 gall bladder operations are performed each year.

It is now realized that to withhold treatment because liver disease is self-induced would be as unreasonable as refusing surgery to a smoker with cancer of the lung. Dr Roger Williams of King's College Hospital, London, reported on 24 patients with alcohol-induced liver disease who had had a liver transplant, carried out by a joint team from King's College and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. The long-term results compared favourably with those who had had a liver transplant.

Dr Williams found that such is the impact of liver failure followed by surgery that few revert to drinking, only one in his series of 24 relapsed, and in a larger group three out of 41 later

succumbed to temptation.

A transplant offers a patient a chance not

only of life but of a reasonable lifestyle. Most will be able to return to full-time employment. A cost analysis by Dr Andrew Burroughs of the Royal Free Hospital has shown that although it is initially more expensive to

treat liver failure with a transplant than by conservative medical measures, the eventual difference is less than might be expected, at the continuing care after a transplant is cheaper.

Around 2,000 people die annually from liver disease in England and Wales. Not more than a third of these are from alcohol-induced

disease, but of this third only about 100 each year would be considered suitable for transplant surgery. Transplant surgery can never therefore be more than a last resort.

preventive measures must remain the principle weapon against alcoholic cirrhosis. Heavy social drinkers as well as chronic alcoholics should be able to recognize the early, very vague warning signs and symptoms of liver disease. They must be aware of increasing lethargy, loss of appetite, increasing muscle weakness, morning nausea, persistent indigestion and an irritable bowel. The patient's doctor may notice other signs: a tremor which affects the tongue as well as the hands, so that when the mouth is open the tongue can be seen flicking in and out like a snake's tongue; finger-nails which are unusually pale and grey, contrasting with the palms of the hands which are a livid red. The skin develops red spots – telangiectasia – or spider naevi, in which the red central spot has small veins radiating from it like legs from a spider. Easy bruising is also sometimes a clue to heavy drinking.

Heavy drinkers need regular blood tests. In doubtful cases, a liver biopsy or a scan to assess the degree of fatty infiltration is used. A transplant offers a patient a chance not

Womb wisdom

Psychiatric disease is more common in women than in men, but it is impossible to know to what extent this is due to physiological and pathological causes, as opposed to sociological ones. The ancient Greeks had no doubt that it was physiological, and that the increased liability to mental instability in a woman was due to the fact that she has a uterus (the womb). Down the ages society has been so convinced of the extraordinary power of the womb to influence the psyche that *hysteria*, the Greek for uterus, has given rise to the term hysteria. The Greeks were not only certain that the possession of a womb was the cause of mental ill health and moodiness, but were also obsessed that its very position within the abdomen was important. In their opinion if it did not lie in the standard position a woman was liable to suffer emotional as well as physical symptoms. The Victorians concurred, and became as interested as the Greeks in the relationship of the womb to other abdominal organs. Once again a wide variety of symptoms was ascribed to "a misplaced womb". Great importance was attached to whether the uterus pointed forwards (anteverted) or backwards (retroverted) towards the sacrum, or outwards (rotundate) towards the abdomen, or backwards (retroverted) towards the sacrum, and whether it was straight, kinked, or curved.

Old myths die slowly; a recent correspondent to *Issue*, the magazine of the National Association for the Childless, complained that her doctors had been slow to realize that her troubles were due to her retroverted uterus, and had been alleviated only after an operation, ventrosuspension, in which the uterus is pulled forwards and attached to the anterior abdominal wall. Mr Stuart Steele, a consultant gynaecologist at the University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, has replied in this week's issue to the points she raised. In 20 per cent of women the uterus points backwards, in 80 per cent forwards. There is no evidence that in an otherwise healthy woman miscarriages are more common in one group or the other, nor is a retroverted uterus likely to cause infertility. Experiments have shown that an unusual lie of the uterus provided no obstacle to the passage of spermatocysts.

Mr Steele points out that in the great majority of cases the position the uterus adopts in the abdomen is of no more importance to the woman than whether she is right or left-handed.

It becomes significant only when the retroversion is secondary to other pelvic disease, such as infection, or endometriosis, which has not only distorted the uterus but reduced its mobility; in these cases the correct course of action is to treat the disease rather than correct the retroversion.

Very occasionally, when the womb tilts backwards, the ovaries are dragged down by it and lie lower in the pelvis than is usual; in this position they can become painfully traumatized during intercourse, and in this rare instance

ventrosuspension may still be a helpful procedure.

The modern woman should be grateful; the standard textbook of gynaecology in the 1920s recommended that a woman with a retroverted uterus should lie "for several hours a day" face downwards in the hope of altering its position. It did add that this treatment was suitable only for the "well-to-do"; the others, who presumably had to work, had to be content with the author's other suggestions of electric currents and massage. However, whatever the class of patient, the author's view seemed to be that they would eventually need surgery.

Malaria news

The news this week that Mark Nicholas had caught malaria while playing for the English team in Zimbabwe was another disappointment for cricket lovers, who are becoming used to the sports news sounding like a ward round. Nicholas's misfortune is a reminder that physical fitness is no protection against the malarial parasite. Nor is immunity conferred by previous exposure to the disease. A study of malaria in Leicester immigrants caught malaria during a home visit. The correct anti-malarial regimen varies according to the country being visited. Travellers to exotic places should consult the British Airways Travel Clinic (01-831 5333) to find out what is needed.

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Budget BUPA

Victoria Glendinning on the latest blast of the trumpet over the British hang-ups on sex and women

What themes are sex, dirt, fear, and punishment?" This book is not specifically about Aids, but was written as a response to it. The author in his first sentence calls Aids "a Copernican event in the history of sexuality", something that will change our view of the past and our conduct in the future. He spends the rest of his book tracing attitudes to sexually transmitted diseases and to homosexuality from the 15th century onwards - without ever seeming to notice that the evidence, and his own glosses and insights, prove the very opposite of his Copernican claim.

For venereal diseases, by his own account, have always elicited blame and hatred, and fear of them has always been exploited by those in authority to inhibit and control sexual activity. Homosexuals have always been repudiated by insecure members of the heterosexual majority, though the word "homosexuality" was not coined until 1869; before then, commentators devised ominous-sounding circumlocutions, and "sodomy" covered a multitude of so-called sins. The results of "labeling" homosexuals are discussed here intelligently. (It is surprising that Foucault's *History of Sexuality*, from which most thinking about categorization derives, is nowhere mentioned.)

Before Aids, there was syphilis, which produced a gamut of appalling symptoms. The statistics are astonishing. In the mid-19th century, it seems that about half of all the patients in London's hospitals were suffering from syphilis-related conditions. In the 1920s, syphilis accounted for more deaths than tuberculosis or cancer. Syphilis, like some Aids sufferers, lost their jobs, or were ostracized, or were viewed as the recipients of divine punishment. Many people in authority thought it undesirable actively to seek a cure, since it would deprive church and state of any sanction against sex outside marriage. "We should not diminish the fear, but make it into a terror," as one peer said in 1919. The availability of condoms was condemned for the same killjoy reason.

Mr Davenport-Hines gallops through centuries of medical, legal, religious, and social history, and makes vivid use of broadsheets, treatises, sermons, newspaper reports, parliamentary debates, cartoons, caricatures, and advertisements. The book is not strikingly well written, but the massive collage of material is so riveting that the stylistic shortcomings hardly matter.

"Most men misunderstand womankind in general, and hate



GLYNNE BOYD HARTIE

Venus' golden apple is rotten

SEX, DEATH AND PUNISHMENT
Attitudes to Sex and Sexuality in Britain since the Renaissance
By Richard Davenport-Hines
Collins, £20

source of infection, as if women never caught anything from men. The writer of an anonymous letter sent to Peter Tatchell, parliamentary candidate for Bermondsey in 1982, boasted that when he was young, "Bermondsey

was a place where men were men and women counted as 'man-holes'." Homosexuals elicit hostility because they are thought not to be "real" men, i.e. they are like women, dirty gypsies and man-holes. The author has much to say about how all men should acknowledge and welcome the feminine component in themselves. The characteristic of women, however, which he most often cites as the one sadly disallowed to men, if they are to fit the specious manly stereotype, is "passivity". When you think of the exhausting lives most women have always led throughout all

NEW HARDBACKS

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books:

Between Two Fires, Europe's path in the 1930s, by David Clay Large (Norton, £15.95) American academics on Auden's low dishonest decade.

Burgundy, by Ian Dunlop (Hamish Hamilton, £15.99) Cultural travel.

Explorers of the Amazon, by Anthony Smith (Viking, £15.95).

Jewishness, by Nehru, a biography, by Sarvepalli Gopal (Oxford, £19.50).

Monet, The Masterworks, by Jean-Paul Cézanne (Bestseller, £12.50).

Moscow! Moscow!, by Christopher Hope (Heinemann, £14.95) Fine novelist's enthralling and perceptive Muscovite ramblings and meetings.

Mythology of the British Isles, by Geoffrey Ashe (Methuen, £17.99).

Illustrated trip to the wider shores of Arthur and Lear, giants and fairies.

Plotting Peace, The Owl's reply to Hawks and Doves, by Ronald Higgins (Brassey's, £21.95) Thinking about defence and security.

Rebellions and Revolutions, China from the 1800s to the 1980s, by Jack Gray (Oxford, £25) in the Short Oxford History of Modern World.

Sasha, by Alma Guillermoprieto (Cape, £13.95) Carnival in Rio.

Social Theory and the Crisis of Marxism, by Joseph McNamee (Verso, £29.95, paperback, £9.95) Post-Marxist interpretations.

Thomas Hardy, Selected Letters, edited by Michael Milligan (Oxford, £27.50) Representative selection from seven-volume Clarendon edition.

Tradition, Composers speak with Richard Dufallo (Oxford, £20).

York, History and heritage, by R. K. Booth (Barrie & Jenkins, £15.95).

*D*uring Czechoslovakia's dark years, there was (and still is) a man in Bratislava who had printed on his visiting card a line from W. H. Auden:

We must love one another or die.

I remembered the quotation when I read Ivan Klíma's new novel, *Love and Garbage* is the narrative of a middle-aged writer in Prague, who has applied for the job of street-sweeper to gather material (maybe literally) for his next book. For he has come to realize that rubbish is indestructible - "It can, at most, change its form... it pervades the air, swells up in water, dissolves, rots, changes into gas, into smoke, into soot, it travels across the world and gradually engulfs it."

In his childhood, "the writer", like Klíma, lived in the ghetto town of Terezín, whence the only exit was to the Nazi concentration camps. After the war he discovered that "all those I had been fond of, all those I had known, were dead, gassed like insects and incinerated like refuse". And so he began to write, to recreate the lives of those who were no longer alive.

Sometimes, having swept their patch, the writer and his co-workers sit out the rest of their shift in the pub. Among them is a

Writer as dustman

NOVEL OF THE WEEK
Barbara Day

LOVE AND GARBAGE
By Ivan Klíma
Translated by Ewald Ossers
Chatto & Windus, £12.95

woman whose child was crushed in a road accident; a priest whose licence was rescinded; a young jazz enthusiast with a liver critically damaged in an industrial accident. The writer shares their friendship, absorbs and revels their stories, until, sitting in hospital with the young man: "All of a sudden it came to me how little I had in common with what I was working - a little less gently - to clear up the rubbish of the past."

The writer's double life - the deceit, the guilt, and the loneliness - is reflected in his relationships with two women: his wife Lida and the sculptress Daria. When he lies beside Lida, his infidelity is inexplicable. But Daria will not let him go. He knows the helplessness of his guilt; in loving Daria he has betrayed Lida, but in returning to Lida he betrays Daria: "We break the ancient laws which echo within us, and we believe that we may do so with impunity."

We break the ancient laws both in our personal and in our public lives. At a time of reconciliation, the writer takes his wife to a family picnic spot, but it has been turned into a refuse depot. The country is polluted by rubbish tips and smoking chimneys, cancer agents which we inflict on each other. But of all the piles of indestructible rubbish, "the most dangerous are the masses of discarded ideas" - the meaningless, manufactured slogans forced on the Czechs and Slovaks during 40 years of communist rule. Klíma was writing before the "gentle revolution" which swept away the tainted ideals of his country's old government, and brought in a new one. Now he is amongst those who are working - a little less gently - to clear up the rubbish of the past.

Antidisestablishmentarian

Peter Jones

PAGAN PRIESTS
Edited by Mary Beard
and John North
Duckworth, £24

introduction, and made part of a continuing argument in the summaries that introduce each piece.

There are three groups of essays, the first centred on the Graeco-Roman city-state, the second outside the city-state (Memphis, Babylon, Mycenaean Greece), and the third on the Roman Empire. The emphasis is on the connection between religion and politics, and

the extent to which the role of priests changes as societies change. One of the major themes is the strong modification to the conception of priesthood that takes place when Augustus, the first Roman emperor, assumes the role and functions of (as it were) chief priest (and so chief sacrificer), and makes the connection between state and religion symbolically absolute. Perhaps the most controversial claim in the Roman section is Beard's that the main mediating body between gods and men in Republican Rome was the senate. One objection is that while the senate may *intervene* in areas of religious concern (e.g. introduction of new cults, for example, or the *Bona Dea* affair), it does so only when Rome's (political) peace and prosperity are threatened. This cannot be described as *mediating* between men and gods.

This is an important collection of essays, generated by what was obviously an excellent seminar series. The Classics are alive and well in London.

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The TES Guide

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history, that really is a laugh.

Yet he is good on the hysteria, hypocrisy, and wicked nonsense resulting from the defensive stereotyping of sexual categories and specially good on the way the very men who express most loathing of homosexuals deceive themselves about the sexual orientation of chaps in their own set, and on the complexities of male bonding, and on the peculiar ways that class comes into it in England (as it comes into everything). Man's tragic capacity for denial - whether of his own experience, or along the lines of "There's no Aids in Tewkesbury", as the local Environmental Health Officer said in 1986 - is sensitively investigated.

The discovery of antibiotics (as a cure for syphilis and other sexual diseases) and the development of the contraceptive pill provided 20 years of seemingly trouble-free sex for both straights and gays. But Mr Davenport-Hines finds no good in the Permissive Society. It is, or was, "a horrible journalistic vulgarization... a debased stunt intended to verify and vindicate all the emptiest and most brutal clichés of male sexual identity". He finds very little light anywhere. In his account of the Wolfenden Report, which decriminalized homosexual activity for males over 21 in private, he cites so many of the hostile, bigoted submissions that one wonders how the committee ever came to recommend liberalization. In assessing (pessimistically) current attitudes to homosexuality, and to Aids, he disregards most responsible journalism, and quotes liberally from the groser tabloids; but there is surely no serious topic on earth on which anyone would expect a worthwhile opinion from these sources. The book turns the stomach and tips the mind towards the unimaginable, a tour de force of the recesses of desire.

The *Buddha of Suburbia* is about a young Englishman born and bred, who considers himself a new breed from two old histories. Hanif Kureishi dealt with the mixture of cultures in *My Beautiful Laundrette* now his adolescent hero, Karim Amir, feels that he belongs to England and does not, which makes him restless and easily bored. The spirit of his age is a general drift and idleness. He loves men and boys, women and girls equally, particularly Charlie, who becomes a punk rock star, and Jamila, who likes having him in public lavatories, yet who accepts an arranged marriage after a hunger strike by her father, who is eventually killed by his crippled husband with a blow from pink dildo.

Mr Davenport-Hines is inconsistent. He criticizes the skullduggery and crossbones style of some anti-Aids publicity on the grounds of its effect on children and adolescents, who see the frightening posters and are growing up, he believes, to think that sex equals death and to associate pleasure with terror. Yet on the next page he asserts that "any self-respecting rebellious teenager, admonished to a life of celibacy by a middle-aged politician" will "rush out in search of as much sex as possible with as many people as are available".

This runaway book will provoke many arguments; but it will not resolve them.

Wild Wolfman of Rust City jungle realism

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

CHICAGO LOOP

By Paul Theroux

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA

By Hanif Kureishi

Faber, £12.99

THE STORYTELLER

By Mario Vargas Llosa

Faber, £12.99

MAD HANNAH RAFFERTY

By Tony Sullivan

André Deutsch, £11.95

the Amazon will find a protector in him. The Storyteller is a hybrid. Half of it is written by an author and maker of a television series called *Tower of Babel*, he remembers a strange Jewish friend, Saul, with a birthmark on his face, who has disappeared, perhaps becoming a bard or *hablador* among the Michiguenga Indians of the rain forest. The other half of the novel consists of the mythological and modern stories of the *hablador*, who has become the memory of the primitive tribe which he has adopted.

The reasons for this metamorphosis - and Kafka's story is invoked - fascinate the narrator. Is Saul another version of the Wandering Jew, or is he attracted to a marginal society because he feels marginal on the streets of Lima? He is a fanatic about the destruction of the Indians by contact with linguists or missionaries or planters or officials or drug barons. His tales to the natives reach these days, and he insists that they should not change. "We'd best be as we are." The Amazonian forest should be put in quarantine, and all the people in it, who are the last to comprehend the connection between man and nature and the gods. It is Llosa's skill not to make *The Storyteller* a tract for green times, but a quest in search of a difficult spirit, who finds his *métier* in serving as the consciousness of a threatened way of life.

There is a prize for that most difficult of arts, the second novel, and *Mad Hannah Rafferty* should win it. Tony Sullivan has written a wry and analytic book about the way that the great failed crusade for peace and love and brotherhood of the late Fifties has become a modern psychiatric illness. His heroine is both a good Catholic and a revolutionary socialist in Liverpool. She marches to Aldermaston, she becomes a Trotskyite with her lover, her baby dies a cot death, she ends in a mental ward writing her memoirs on lavatory paper.

As with Llosa, Tony Sullivan makes no rant of this fervour turning into delirium. His quiet jokes deflate, his true observations illuminate. Vignettes of Liverpool and London could not be better written in shorter space. As an elegy to the last lost red dream of our time, *Mad Hannah Rafferty* hurts and grimaces. It is as fine as it could be about what could never become true.

Publication 5th April

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William Jackson, writing in *The Times* about the previous volume in this series.

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PREVIEW

TODAY Opera, Dance & Books

● FRIDAY Classical Music ● MONDAY Art & Auctions ● TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret ● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA

Barry Millington

MORLEY COLLEGE OPERA: Presents a double-bill of works by Franz von Suppé and Nino Rota, the composer of the score for *The Godfather*. Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon St, London WC1 (01-387 6229), today, tomorrow and Sat, 7.30pm, Sat mat 2.30pm, £5-22 (minus £1 for concs).

THE MARTYRDOM OF ST MAGNUS: The excellent Maxwell Davies Festival offers a staging by Michael McCarthy of the chamber opera from 1976. Michael Rafty conducts the SCO. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm, £25-21.

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NURNBERG: Bernd Weidt cobbles Hans Sachs's verses, and Christopher von Dohnanyi conducts in John Cox's newish production at Covent Garden. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068), 7.30pm, matinee 2.30pm, £21-22.

THE FEATHERSTONEHAUGHES: All male cast give pointed performances in often ribald sketches by Les Anderson. ICA Theatre, The Mall SW1 (01-930 5647), Tues-April 16, 8pm.

SONG & DANCE: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "double-bill" has Marti Webb singing "Tell me on a Sunday" and Wayne Sleep leading a company of eight dancers. Limited season.

Shakespeare Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-379 5389), Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 3pm, previews from today, opens April 23, 7pm, £7.50-22.

DANCE

John Percival

GISELE: Peter Wright's careful production for the Royal Ballet with Lesley Collier in the title role tonight and Tues, Avenne Tucker Sat mat and Wed, Fiona Chadwick Sat evening.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden WC2 (01-240 1068), 7.30pm, £1-£41, mat 2.30pm, £1-£24.

LES BALLET'S JAZZ: Company from Montreal new to Britain. First programme includes Stravinsky's *EBONY Concerto* to music which Stravinsky wrote for Woody Herman, and Canadian choreographer Brian Macdonald's *Big Band* to Stan Kenton (today, Fri, Sat). Second programme of two has Macdonald's *Red Hot Peppers* to Jelly Roll Morton, and four works by Argentinian choreographer Mauricio Wainrot (Tues-April 16).

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosemary Avenue EC1 (01-278 6916), 7.30pm, matinee Sat 2.30pm, £4-£16.

THE FEATHERSTONEHAUGHES: All male cast give pointed performances in often ribald sketches by Les Anderson.

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OUTSIDE LONDON

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: A double bill at Bath until Sat includes Hynd's *Lissons Amoureuses* to Offenbach music and Gillian Lynne's *Lisztomania*, a love story with horses. Gillian Lynne's, a love story with horses.

Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 525565), today and Sat, 7.30pm, £5.50-29; Charter Theatre, Preston (0727 585858), Mon and Wed, 7.30pm, £5.50-28 (minus £1 for concs).

THE GAMBLER: Graham Clark is the eponymous obsessive in David Fournier's lively production.

English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161), tomorrow and Tues, 7.30pm, £23-25.

OUTSIDE LONDON

COSI FAN TUTTE: Mozart with perhaps, Derek Clark conducts for WNO.

Hippodrome, Bristol (0272 298444), tonight 7.15pm, £23-25.

THE MERRY WIDOW: Musically strong, dramatically weak, Opera 80 venture.

Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 525565), today and Sat, 7.30pm, £5.50-29; Charter Theatre, Preston (0727 585858), Mon and Wed, 7.30pm, £5.50-28 (minus £1 for concs).

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Opera 80's brave stab — if that's the word — at Donizetti's popular work. Linda Clemens dons the blood-stained capital gown.

Theatre Royal, Lincoln (as above), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5.50-29; Charter Theatre, Preston (0727 585858), Tues, 7.30pm, £5.50-28 (minus £1 for concs).

JERUSALEM: Verdi's reworking of *L'Amico Fritz* contains some superior music.

A challenging staging by Pierre Audi, conducted by Paul Daniel.

Opera North, Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 445326), Sat and Wed, 7.15pm, £4-22.

DER ROSENKAVALIER: Traditional, unimaginative staging by Wolfgang Weber, but it is worth travelling far to hear the rose's recipient, Amanda Roocroft, in her first professional engagement.

Hippodrome, Bristol (as above), Sat, 6.30pm, £24-22.

BOLSHOI STARS: Touring group in short pieces and extracts from famous ballets.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending

FICTION
1 *A Sensible Life*, Mary Wesley Bantam £12.95
2 *Timbuktu Regained*, John Mortimer Viking £13.95
3 *Golden Fox*, Wilbur Smith Macmillan £14.95
4 *The Wimbledon Poisoner*, Nigel Williams Faber £12.95
5 *Cold Harbour*, Jack Higgins Heinemann £12.95

NON-FICTION
1 *The Cuckoo's Egg*, Clifford Stoll Hodder Head £12.95
2 *A Mother's War*, Fay von Hassell John Murray £16.95
3 *Recollections and Reflections*, Bruno Bettelheim Thames/Hudson £14.95
4 *C.S. Lewis: Biography*, A.N. Wilson Collins £15.00
5 *Liar's Poker*, Michael Lewis Hodder £12.95

PAPERBACKS
1 *Heretic's Apprentice*, Ellis Peters Headline £5.99
2 *On My Way To The Club*, Ludovic Kennedy Fontana £4.99
3 *The Potter's Field*, Ellis Peters Headline £5.99
4 *House of Doubts*, Michael Dobbs Fontana £3.50
5 *A Woman's Guide To Astrology*, Carol Clewlow Pendragon £3.99

5 *Japan: Sybil Bedford* Penguin £4.99
6 *The Negotiator*, Frederick Forsyth Corgi £4.99
7 *Cat's Eye*, Margaret Atwood Virago £4.99
8 *Fire Down Below*, William Golding Faber £3.99
10 *New BBC Diet*, Barry Lynch BBC £3.99

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

Wife with a knife



Sharpening the dagger for her husband tonight, in the ENO's new production of Verdi's *Macbeth*, will be the American-born soprano Kristine Ciesinski (above). No stranger to the world of female operatic toughies — she already has the roles of *Medea*, *Salomé* and *Tosca* to her credit — she is in real life married to the far from murderous fellow opera singer Norman Bailey. Jonathan Summers takes the title role in the latest instalment of the Verdi "cycle" unfolding under the inspired direction of Mark Elder. For the ballet of *Hecate* and the witches, the ENO have called in Ian Spink and his dynamic contemporary dance ensemble, Second Stride. The weird sisters will present aspects of womanhood and the female life cycle such as are notably lacking in *Lady ("Unsex me here") Macbeth*. The ballet follows to the version of the opera Verdi made for Paris in 1865. Usually omitted, it is, in the words of Verdi scholar Julian Budden, "one of the composer's most impressive, by turns majestic and demonic". David Pountney's production promises to be no less bracing than those of *La Traviata*, *Simon Boccanegra*, and *Un ballo in Maschera*. In any case, you should not expect to see kilts and sporrans. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 0111), tonight and Saturday, 7.30pm, £23-£30.

Barry Millington

Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0323 412000), until Sat, 7.30pm, Sat mat 2.30pm, £7.50-22.50.

FLESH AND BLOOD: Les Anderson's original all-woman company, *The Cholmondeleys*, the role model for the Featherstonehaughes.

White Theatre, Bracknell (0344 427272), Fri, 7.30pm, until Sat, 7.45pm.

JEWELS: Fascinating programme of traditional Egyptian dance by Surya (with all the Layel El-Sharqi musicians).

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham (021 643 1231), Sun, 7.30pm, £7.50-22.

TOKYO ONO: Film *Progressive*. Each Saturday the exhibition "The Bronze Age" is punctuated by rare showings of Yoko's seminal films. This week: *The Museum of Modern Art Show* 1971, *Rape* 1969, *Film 5 (Smile)* 1961.

Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6 (01-748 3354). Exhibition until April 22. Film 5 (Smile) 2pm, £3 (22 concs).

ELIUS SOLA, MARTIN GENT AND MARTIN COLES: *Monarchs From the Middle Kingdom*, a newly commissioned collaboration between Sola, established writer/singer and Cole, established media performers Gent and Coles, tracing the spirit of a Chinese singer, Johnny London and Lucy Margan.

The Red Lion (upstairs), Great Windmill Street, London E1 (01-837 6811), tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm, £22.50-24.50.

THEATRE OF THE HEART, ALL THE MAIDS WERE PRESENT: An investigation of service and servitude blurring the line between performance and audience space by use of the streets.

The October Theatre, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (01-837 0031), tonight until Sat, 7.30pm, £5.50-22.50.

SALLY DAWSON: *We Were See Shells*. An examination of fashion throws light on institutionalized racism and the appropriation of other cultures.

Greenwich Citzers' Gallery, 121 Powis Street, Woolwich, London SE10 (01-816 3161)

GLORIA/ANNE GRIFFIN PRESENT: *Arachne*. The last 1980s obsession with classical Greek myth continues with this opera/drama/physical theatre mix.

Tron Theatre, 63 Tron Lane, Glasgow (0141 552 4267), tonight until Sun, 7.30pm, £5 (22.50 concs).

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ELIUS SOLA, MARTIN GENT AND MARTIN COLES: *Monarchs From the Middle Kingdom*, a newly commissioned collaboration between Sola, established writer/singer and Cole, established media performers Gent and Coles, tracing the spirit of a Chinese singer, Johnny London and Lucy Margan.

The Red Lion (upstairs), Great Windmill Street, London E1 (01-837 6811), tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm, £22.50-24.50.

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Mothers against nature

Peter Waymark

That a mother can walk out on her children may belong to the realms of the unthinkable or insane, but 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm) has found four who did it and got them to talk freely in front of the camera. Sally George's film covers the how, and more intriguingly, the why, and does not try to impose a view. The enormity of the act is still with these women many years later, which is not to say they all feel guilt or feel that what they did was not for the better in the long run. The four subjects have been chosen to represent a spread of experience — Margaret, who could not cope with motherhood; Gloria trying to run a home and family and study for a degree; Sylvia unfulfilled and needing to escape; Sheila trapped in a wretched marriage. Though there was much pain along the way, the endings are by no means unhappy.



Comedian Robbie Coltrane plays all the characters (BBC2, 10.10pm)

O Ostensibly a performance of Dario Fo's satirical comedy which gives a modern slant to the medieval mysteries, *Mistero Buffo* (BBC2, 10.10pm) is actually an excuse for a one-man show by Robbie Coltrane. Claiming that alternative comedy started in the Middle Ages, and slipping in references to poll tax refuseniks, Salman Rushdie and Richard Branson, the corpulent Coltrane leaps about the stage attired in shocking pink and enacts the raising of Lazarus in a Glasgow cemetery. The piece itself is less funny than what Coltrane makes of it, playing all the characters and showing off a dazzling variety of accents.

O *Masriss* (Channel 4, 9.30pm) is the Merchant-Ivory team's second foray into E.M. Forster after *A Room With a View* and though the material is more controversial (a homosexual affair at Cambridge during the Edwardian era) the treatment has the same tasteful detachment. The young men at the centre of the story are skilfully played by James Wilby and Hugh Grant, leaving actors of the calibre of Denholm Elliott, Simon Callow, Ben Kingsley and Billie Whitelock to take the supporting roles.

O During the Renaissance the master painters passed on "recipes" of art to their students. Today's instruction is less rigid. A teacher at the Royal Academy School declares: "We never clip anyone's wings." The Painter's Son (Channel 4, 6.00pm) also calls in at the Slade School and the Royal College of Art in pursuit of answers to the old conundrum of whether artists are born or made.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 4.30pm, then at 6.00pm, 8.30pm and 10.00pm.
6.00am *Good Morning Britain* 6.30 Simon Mayo 6.30 Simon Bates 12.30pm *Newspast* 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 *Steve Wright in the Afternoon* 5.30 *News 90* 6.00 *Philip Schofield* 7.00 *Top of the Pops* (with BBC1) 7.30 *Howard Keel* 8.30 *John Peel* 10.00 *Nicky Campbell* 12.00-2.00am *See Horns*

RADIO 2

FM Stereo
News on the hour. Headlines 6.30am, 7.30, 8.30, 9.00am 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm.
Chris Tarrant 7.30 *Derek Jameson* 9.30 *Judith Chalmers* 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Gilmour 2.00 *Gloria Hunniford*, and *Radio 2* from *Aladdin's* 2.35 *Mark Goodwin* 3.00 *Chris Tarrant* 4.00 *Howard Keel*, *Indy Racing* from *Aladdin's* 4.20 *Munro Club* 11.00 *John Dunn* 7.00 *The News Huddlines* 7.30 *Wally Whyton* 8.00 *Paul O'Grady* 8.30 *John Peel* 10.00 *Ken Bruce* 10.00 *Jazz Parade* 12.00 *Moanies* 12.30 *Howard Keel* 1.00 *John Peel* 12.00-2.00am *See Horns*

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add one hour for BST.
5.00am News 5.30 24 Hours 5.30 *Londres* 6.00 *Newscast* 6.30 *Children of the Sun* 7.00 *News* 7.00 24 Hours: *News Summary* and *Financial News* 7.30 *World Today* 8.00 *Good Business* 8.30 *World Review* of the British Press 8.30 *The World Today* 9.30 *Financial News*: *Sport* 10.00 *Assessment* 10.30 *Science Today* 10.45 *Assessment* 11.00 *World Today* 11.15 *News* 11.30 *Six of the Best*: *A Horse Called Gertrude* 12.00 *Newscast* 12.15pm *Multicart* 2.00 *Sports Roundup* 1.00 *News* 1.30 *World Today* 2.00 *Financial News* 2.30 *World Sport* (UK) 2.00 *News*: *Outlook* 2.30 *Off the Shelf*: *A Far Cry* from *Cambridge* 2.45 *Writ on* 3.00 *Newscast* 3.15 *World Review* 3.30 *Assessment* 3.45 *Science Today* 3.50 *Assessment* 4.00 *World Today* 5.30 *News* 5.45 *German Features* 5.54 *Journalism* 6.00 *Outlook* 7.25 *Financial News* 7.30 *World Review* 7.45 *The Farming World* 8.00 *News 229* *The World Today* 8.25 *Wards of Faith* 8.30 *Men and Women* 8.45 *World Review* 8.50 *Newspast* 1.00 *News* 11.15 *Commemoration* 11.10 *Financial News* 11.15 *Music Review* 12.00 *Newscast* 12.30 *The Music Box* 1.00 *Outlook* 2.25 *Financial News* 2.30 *News 229* *Review of the British Press* 2.55 *Newscast* 2.55 *Star of the Best*: *A Horse Called Gertrude* 3.00 *News* 3.05 *World Review* 3.15 *Assessment* 3.30 *Science Today* 3.45 *Assessment* 3.50 *World Today* 4.00 *Morgenmagazin* 4.35 *News*: *Headlines in English and French* 4.45 *World Review* 4.50 *Financial News* 4.55 *Weather and Travel News*

RADIO 3

6.30am *Open University* (FM only)
6.30 *Weather and News*
6.45 *Morning Concert*: Chamberlain (Incidental Music, Andromide): London Baroque under Medina; Handel (Organ Concerto in F, Op 4 No 4; English Concert under Pinocchi, with Simon Preston); 7.30 *News*

7.35 *Morning Concert* (contd): Barber (Serenade for String Orchestra); Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under Schwartz; Andriani (Violin Concerto); *Music of the Baroque* under Chernushenko, with Sergei Stadler; Prokofiev (Suite, Lieutenant Kijé); Dallas Symphony Orchestra under Mandelson; author Rosalind Miles and editor of the *Daily and Sunday Telegraph* Max Hastings.

11.00 *International Dancing* introduced by Angela Rippon from the Bournemouth International Centre. Tonight it is the turn of the Amateur Modern competitors.

11.30 *International Cricket*. Highlights from the first day's play in the fourth Test between West Indies and England in Barbados.

12.00 *Weather*

12.05am *Ramadan: A Month To Remember*. Imam B. D. Muredza investigates the changes in family life during the month and sees how the home atmosphere changes as preparations are made to break the fast. Ends at 12.30

6.30 *Composers of the Week*: Scandinavian Season. Sibelius — and Bachem. The Oceanside (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Beecham): The Return of Leinonen (LPO under Beecham); Andante festivo (Finnish Radio Orchestra under the composer); Symphony No 4 in A minor (London Philharmonic Orchestra under Barenboim); The Seven's Delight: Juliane Baird, soprano, Nigel North, chitarone and baroque guitar, Colin Tilney, harpsichord, perform Italian 17th-century vocal music. Includes Monologues from Caccini's 1602 collection *The New Music*; Monteverdi's Lament of Admetus; and a cantata by Barbara Strozzi (7).

10.10 *Chillout*: Strong Quartet performs Tippet (Quartet No 2) (r).

10.35 *The Telemann Fiddler*: Scandinavian Season. The planet-Melcom Troup performs Grieg (Sæter, Op 72).

11.30 *BBC SO* under Andrew Davis, with arranger Mark Cross, violin, performs Bruch (Concerto No 1); Elgar (Symphony No 2).

1.00pm *News*

1.05 *Birmingham Luncheon Concert*: Live from Studio One, Virginia Black, harpsichord, performs J.S. Bach (Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903; Sonata in A Op 17 No 5; *Reverie* (Three Preludes from Suite in D, Op 23); *Scherzo* (Sonatas in G, Op 23); In E, K330; In A, K34).

1.30 *News* 12.05am *Closes*

2.00 *BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra* (FM only from 2.00pm) under Niall Curley, with John Wallace, trumpet, performs Sæterdøm (Culminations); Souster (Trumpet Concerto); Stravinsky (Symphony in three movements), Inc 2.25 *Interplay* 3.00 *Test Match Special* (FM only): West Indies v England. Bell-by-bell commentary on the first day of the fourth Test, from Bridgetown, Barbados. 3.25 *News* 3.30 *Weather* 3.35 *Yesterday in Parliament* 4.37 *Weather*

6.00 *News* 6.30 *Partners*: An opportunity for listeners to report on life's problems, injustices and quirks. With Susan Marting and other people who offer their services to retain the upper hand over their customers. Part 1: The Garage Mechanic (r).

10.00 *News*: *The Natural History Programme* with Fergus Fleming 10.30 *World in Action* with John Holm 11.00 *News* 11.30 *Act of Worship* (s)

11.00 *News*: *Critics* (s)

11.25 *Turbulent Priests*: In the last in the series, the Rev Dr Edward Norman talks to four controversial clerics — and a spiritualist and a beliefs which motivate them. Part 4: The Rev Suzanne Fagel, one of the first Anglican women to be ordained as a priest in the United States, who is now serving in the St Paul Cathedral, New York. Series of talks by first-time broadcasters. Hugh Letch recounts his strange fascination for the call of a bugle.

12.00 *News*: *You and Yours* with John Watle

12.25 *Lord Peter Wimsey*: The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club, a six-part BBC Radio 4 dramatisation of the last book of the *Book of the Duke* (see *Choice*).

2.00 *Music* with Fritz Spiegel

7.00 *News* 7.15 *Weather* 7.20 *Partners*

7.30 *News* 7.45 *Weather* 7.50 *Partners*

7.55 *News* 8.00 *Weather* 8.05 *Partners*

8.15 *News* 8.30 *Weather* 8.35 *Partners*

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9.50 *News* 9.55 *Weather* 9.55 *Partners*

10.00 *News* 10.1

THURSDAY APRIL 5 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6415 (+0.0080)W German mark
2.7913 (+0.0157)Exchange index
87.8 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1749.7 (-11.6)FT-SE 100
2231.6 (-9.1)USM (Databstream)
141.61 (-0.29)

Market report, page 30

Builder's profits up

A timely increase in sales of commercial property developments enabled Wilson (Connolly) to preserve its 15-year record of continuous growth, despite falls in house prices of up to 30 per cent. Pre-tax profits rose 2 per cent to £54.2 million in the year to December on sales 19 per cent up at £193 million. Earnings rose 3 per cent to 19.6p and a final dividend of 23.9p (2p) makes 3.45p, up 15 per cent. *Tempus*, page 26

H&C advances

Harrison & Crosfield raised pre-tax profits from £123 million to £130 million in 1989 on turnover of £1.92 billion (£1.8 billion). A final dividend of 5.1p, payable July 2, makes 8.5p (7.5p). *Tempus*, page 26

ADT issue

ADT is hoping to offset a big part of its £160 million investment in BAA via a £100 million preference share issue, convertible into BAA shares. BAA shares fell 15p to 380p. *Tempus*, page 27

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2736.28 (-0.45)
Techno 26442.94 (-316.38)
S&P 500 Average 26442.94 (-316.38)
Hong Kong 2860.09 (+2.38)
Amsterdam 118.41 (+0.7)
Sydney: AS 1516.87 (+11.4)
Frankfurt DAX 1963.25 (-5.08)
General 6116.42 (+12.25)
Polar CAC 830.96 (+2.8)
Zurich S&P Gen 587.4 (-1.0)
London: FT-A All-Shares 1107.80 (-3.27)
1205.77 (+1.22)
FT-Gen Mains 257.4 (+0.9)
FT Fixed Interest 86.17 (+0.15)
FT Govt Secs 77.25 (+0.43)
Recent issues Page 30
Closing prices Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
SG Warburg 480p (+150)
Harvey & Thompson 500p (+100)
The Lucy 110p (+100)
Dow Jones 110p (+100)
Sun Alliance 3031p (+1510)
Thames TV 522p (+120)
Europen Units 590p (+120)
Harrison 785p (+250)
Rothschild 275p (+100)
West & Country 170p (+450)
FALLS:
Henderson Admin 735p (-100)
Bank Grp 750p (-100)
Bullring 650p (-100)
Carton Comm 544p (-110)
Midsumner 1315p (-130)
BAA 3852p (-190)
Design 705p (-100)
Danwest Holdings 725p (-100)
Thoson Corp 725p (-100)
Zakon 197p (-120)
Closing prices 35200
SEAC Volume 505.4m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month corporate bills: 15.1% - 15.5%
US Prime Rate 10.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.85-7.81%
30-year bonds 8.5% - 8.55%

CURRENCIES

London: New York £1.6415
E: DM2.7913 \$1.6415
S: SWF12.4729 \$1.6415
E: Yen250.26 \$1.6415
ECU 20.734133 \$0.794163
ECU 1.362150 \$0.251587

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$374.25 pm-\$374.25
close \$374.25-\$374.75 (2227.75-
2228.25)
New York
Comex \$373.70-\$374.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$18.35 bbl (\$18.80)
Dollars latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia: S Bank Boys 2.15
Australia: S Bank Girls 2.15
Belgium: Br 2.50 1.15
Canada: S 1.25 1.05
Denmark: Kr 1.25 1.05
Finland: Fr 0.75 0.75
Germany: Dm 2.370 2.370
Greece: Dr 27.22 25.125
Hong Kong: S 13.65 1.2040
Iceland: Pr 1.25 1.25
Italy: Lira 745 2015
Japan: Yen 27.5 2.25
Netherlands: Gfl 1.25 1.25
Norway: Kr 1.25 1.25
Portugal: Esc 26.25 24.25
South Africa: Rand 18.45 4.25
Spain: Pes 10.5 0.51
Sweden: Kr 1.25 1.25
Switzerland: Fr 2.25 2.25
Turkey: Lira 1.725 1.625
USA: S 1.25 1.25
Yugoslavia: Dinar 1.25 1.25
Rate for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Exchange rates apply to travel money cheques.
Retail Price Index: 128.2 (February)

G7 to focus on German monetary union

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

THE fast-developing debate in Germany over the terms on which the East German economy can be integrated into the West German is likely to be the main focus of discussions at Saturday's meeting of the Group of Seven, in Paris.

The finance ministers and central bank governors of the seven leading industrial nations are likely to begin their meeting with a review of the world economy in which German unification is one of the main moving factors.

The G7 will want to form a view of whether German monetary union is likely to be inflationary, what

effect it could have on interest rates and how far it may reduce the long-standing international payments imbalance by re-directing German exports inwards.

Ministers are expected to move on from there to consider recent events in the currency markets and the implications of GMU for interest rates and exchange rates. The US is particularly anxious to avoid any further rise in interest rates internationally in view of the intermittent signs of slow-down in the US economy and will be seeking some reassurance from the Germans that GMU will not raise German interest rates.

The immediate currency concern is with the weakness of the Japanese yen, which is seen as unhelpful in reducing payments imbalances. Other members of the G7 are likely to feel that there is still room to raise Japanese rates further without causing a general rise in rates.

There will also be a further discussion of the proposed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and events in Eastern Europe generally for which the G7 meeting was originally called.

However, while GMU will be the theme which underlies much of the discussion, ministers and governors from the six non-German countries are not going to Paris with any intention of significantly influen-

cing the process of GMU itself. On this subject they will listen.

For the most part finance ministers and central banks do not have any clearly worked out views on how GMU should be accomplished.

The precise terms on which GMU will be achieved are still uncertain. The Bundesbank has proposed an exchange of two Ostmarks for one Deutschmark, but the impression left by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, before the East German elections, was that the basis would be one-for-one.

The outcome appears to depend on an internal debate — or power struggle — in the Federal Republic. When the President of the Bundesbank, Herr Karl Otto Pöhl,

described one-for-one convertibility as "fantastic", in the week before the East German elections, he was forced to eat his words within a few days. But the Bundesbank has returned to the fray.

Yesterday, the Vice-President Herr Helmut Schlesinger said it was an "illusion" to think that the two marks had to be exchanged one-for-one just because they were both called marks. He said: "The GDR was itself aware that it would be too much for the limited productive capacity of the East German economy, if a conversion rate of one-for-one was chosen. The GDR was thinking of two-for-one, 2.5-for-one for industrial groups."

NEDC chief concerned over industry

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

CONCERN

that British industry still suffers from poor quality, worse delivery and burgeoning wage demands — despite more than a decade of a Government bent on fostering the "enterprise culture" — surfaced at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

The round table forum, which brings together government, industry and the trade unions, was discussing a paper, presented by Mr Walter Ellis, NEDC director general, on the deterioration in the country's trade performance.

The Government is hopeful that its counter-inflationary policy will narrow the current account deficit, which measures deficit in goods and services, by cutting demand for imports, while British firms look for more business abroad. The deficit was a record £20.8 billion last year.

Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, told the meeting that the key to improved performance was sustained investment.

The paper acknowledged that exports, excluding oil, had grown by more than 10 per cent over the last year — outstripping import growth. But the improvement in exports started from a low base. The collapse of Britain's

traditional surplus on services, such as banking, insurance, shipping and travel, was described as "extremely worrying", making improved trade in manufactured goods "crucial".

But Mr Ellis identified unfavourable developments on the wage front which had slowed the gains in productivity in manufacturing and brought unit wage cost growth to an annual rate of more than 6 per cent, compared with less than 3 per cent for leading competitors abroad.

If unit wage costs continue to grow at the current pace in Britain, with an unchanged exchange rate, industry is seen as becoming gradually less competitive, hampering the urgently needed "switch from home to export markets".

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, chairing the session, observed that all participants agreed it was worrying that unit costs were growing faster than those of the competition.

The paper looked at five sectors of industry that accounted for £15 billion of last year's trade gap — engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, aero-space and chemicals industries, he said. The criterion for manufacturing was achieving "world class".

While high technology sectors showed the fastest growth and relatively high value-added per worker, other measures revealed the old problem of poor quality. In terms of

value-added per tonne, which should indicate the proportion of sophisticated gadgetry in a product, machine tools, pumps and farm machinery scored relatively badly against the leading industrial economies.

The sectoral studies showed up a discrepancy in several industries between the specified quality a product ought to have and the actual quality delivered, recalling the time when British industry became virtually synonymous with bad quality and still worse delivery.

The retail sector, which has done much to raise quality on the home market, was praised in the report for serving consumers well.

But it had left British suppliers more vulnerable in certain industries to international competition than producers in countries which are not "nations of shopkeepers".

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, shared the concern about the retail sector's effect in sucking in imports. The trade gap, he said, was, however, basically an issue of "excessive demand".

Drawing attention to the international success of Britain's pharmaceutical, aero-space and chemicals industries, he said that the criterion for manufacturing was achieving "world class".

The proposal to sell Lexterton to its management for a single £1 with £3.9 million of write-offs was voted through by 27 million votes to 14 million against.

Mr David Llewellyn, a former managing director of Lexterton, who led rebel shareholders speaking for 10 per cent of Era and who made an alternative offer for Lexterton, said he was disappointed by the result. "A lot

Smith was a supporter of Mr Llewellyn's proposals.

Mr Pat Hammond-Turner and Mr David Roxburgh will act as executive directors of Era next month but will remain as consultants to the group for one year.

Era, whose accounts have been qualified by its auditors, made pre-tax profits of £631,000 in 1989 compared with £4.5 million in 1988 but an extraordinary write-off of £3.4 million after tax means it made a £4.3 million loss after tax and dividends compared with an after tax profit of £1.4 million in 1988. The company is "technically unable" to pay a final dividend for 1989.

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Era, whose accounts have been qualified by its auditors, made pre-tax profits of £631,000 in 1989 compared with £4.5 million in 1988 but an extraordinary write-off of £3.4 million after tax means it made a £4.3 million loss after tax and dividends compared with an after tax profit of £1.4 million in 1988. The company is "technically unable" to pay a final dividend for 1989.

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Property company move by Arcadian

By Michael Tate
Deputy City Editor

MR ROBERT Breare and Mr Jeremy Priestley, who built up the Parkdale Holdings property and leisure group before selling out to Pavilion Leisure for £67 million last August, are moving in at Westminster and County Properties.

They are reversing Arcadian International Resorts, their new company, into Westminster, where the Parkes family is relinquishing control by selling 29.9 per cent of the shares, at 205p each, to Mr Breare. Mr Priestley, their associates and a handful of institutions.

The Parkes family will retain 22.4 per cent of the Westminster equity, but will lose most of their boardroom seats, although Mr David Parkes, with 10 per cent, stays on as executive deputy chairman.

Mr Parkes, who also picks up £200,000 in compensation for cancellation of his profit-related contract, has promised not to sell any shares at below 205p for the next 12 months.

News of the deal sent Westminster shares soaring 45p to 170p.

Mr Breare becomes chief executive of Westminster and Mr Priestley an executive director.

Sir Peter Parker, the former head of British Rail and former chairman of Parkdale, moves in as non-executive chairman.

Under Mr Breare, Arcadian, formed in December, 1989, has assembled an experience leisure property management team with a view to developing and running hotels and country clubs offering a broad range of golf and other leisure activities, both in Britain and mainland Europe.

It will aim for projects between £10 and £40 million and plans to start work on at least two projects in Europe each year. Negotiations are already under way.

Hurricane and winter storms fail to cloud Sun Alliance

WHAT a difference a set of figures makes! In February, while insurance assessors totted up the damage from the winter winds, City analysts were shaking their heads about Sun Alliance. High exposure to UK property, combined with a stoic refusal to succumb to the lure of hefty reinsurance cover, looked like the leading to bad times ahead.

Yesterday's results turned that around. A 14 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £319 million was the mildest pain shown so far in this reporting season by a composite insurer. Together with a 22 per cent increase in the year's dividend to 12.5p, it put the results at the top end of expectations.

Sun's main success was a lower exposure to the US. Hurricane Hugo still accounted for its overseas underwriting loss worsening from £29 million to £35 million. But this failed to dent the underlying strength of UK general underwriting profits, down by only £14 million despite £68 million in hot summer subsidence claims.

A 22 per cent gain in investment profits to £342 million and a 23 per cent increase in life profits to £38 million were the other factors that shielded the bottom line.

What really impressed the City, however, was the company's solvency margin, the ratio of net assets to annual premium. By the year end this had risen from 93 to 119 per cent, although the worldwide fall in stock markets has since trimmed this to 111 per cent.

Compare this to the likes of Royal Insurance, which trades on barely half that figure. In short, it gives Sun the capital strength for above-average dividend growth in future years, and to meet this winter's damage bill with good grace if not with ease.

Sun estimates it will pay out a net £150 million for the damage after reinsurance, which is twice as much as last year.

Harrison & Crosfield

Harrison & Crosfield has nailed its colours to the mast by declaring that it will pursue a progressive dividend policy.

For 1989 its payment duly rises 10.4 per cent to an overall 8.5p, though net earnings rose a mere 2 per cent.

It was still a transitional year as H&C continues to change its spots from a former plantations group into a more diversified industrial empire.

While various divisions were helped by acquisition benefits, and overall pre-tax profits rose by 6 per cent to £130.7 million, higher tax and an increased share base took their toll at the earnings level.

The four core building blocks – chemicals, timber and building supplies, food and agriculture, and plantations – remain H&C's bedrock, and further add-ons must be expected as 1990 and 1991 unfold. Even if gearing, set to fall by 5 per cent points to 40 per cent when proceeds from the recent sale of general trading interests come through, has to rise, H&C is not that concerned.

Interest cover remains a healthy 7.8 times, and the group is determined that attractive business opportunities will not be passed by.

Though H&C's jigsaw puzzle of interests will eventually fall into place, and net earnings move up at a faster pace,



Progressive: David Hopkinson (front), Harrison & Crosfield chairman, George Paul (left), chief executive, and Bill Turcan, finance director

1990 looks like being another year of only modest profits growth. Commodity prices remain weak, and certain business areas remain patchy.

Others areas are brighter, but even so pre-tax profits of £137 million would only see net earnings at 16.4p a share, to put the shares on a prospective rating of 9.4.

The results to watch for are those for end-December, 1991. Meanwhile the shares,

like a Christmas pudding, should be tucked away in a dark cupboard and left to mature.

At 15p, the shares are on a prospective p/e ratio of 8, which is quite a premium to other housebuilders.

With net debts at only 35 per cent of shareholders' funds, Wilton will have no problem in picking up land jettisoned by more troubled companies at advantageous prices. The shares are an excellent long term investment and will be well worth buying once the market turns.

Wilson (Connolly)

Wilson (Connolly) is about as stable as it is possible for any housebuilder to be. In a year

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Free share service for most Argos holders

BAT shareholders who receive fewer than 500 shares in Argos when the company is demerged this week are being given the chance to sell them, free of charge. Of the 142,500 shareholders in Argos, 107,000 will have less than 500 shares which means that 75 per cent of shareholders will own less than 10 per cent of the company.

Some 57,000 shareholders in Argos will hold less than 200 shares, meaning that 40 per cent will own only 2 per cent. With minimum dealing costs of £20 to £25, the expense for small shareholders can be quite high compared with sale proceeds. Shareholders can make use of the free dealing service, which has been arranged by Argos's broker, Rowe & Pitman, until 3 pm on May 4.

Sherwood lifts BZW board dividend

SHERWOOD Group, the lingerie and lace concern, is raising its final dividend from 3.9p to 5.2p making 7.5p (5.5p) a share. It reported pre-tax profits of £28.13 million (£26.5 million) for the year ended December. The higher issued capital meant net earnings were lower at 35.8p (38p) a share. Turnover was £74.3 million (£47.6 million) and orders for the garments division are stronger.

Reuters starts service

REUTERS Holdings has launched Money 2000, an information service for the 24-hour global market in foreign exchange and money. The screen service displays rates contributed by banks and brokers in 32 countries and quotations for leading instruments in financial futures and options markets.

Subscribers contribute prices and information to Reuters and the most recent are shown on multi-contributor and composite displays. Spot and forward rates are inserted on a 24-hour basis for about 120 currencies, as well as for gold and silver. The service also includes Eurodeposit information.

Jaguar sales in US record

JAGUAR, the maker of

luxury cars, sold a record

4,744 in the US in the first quarter of 1990. This was 261 more than in 1989 and 92 more than in 1986, the previous record first quarter.

The Coventry company said it was on course to sell 20,000 cars in the US, its biggest market. It was a substantial fall away in US sales that led to Jaguar's decreased profits and the need for a link with Ford.

Smurfit deal called off

JEFFERSON Smurfit

Group and Waste Management Inc of the US will not form a proposed joint venture to process and market recycled paper.

Smurfit/WMI Recycling Company was expected to have been the world's largest paper-recycling company. The companies said that subject to market conditions they expected to continue paper sale and brokerage transactions.

MMC clears British Steel's £330m takeover of Walker

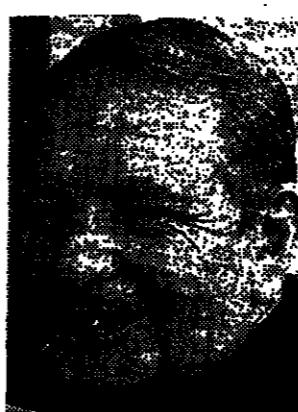
By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has cleared British Steel's agreed £330 million bid for C Walker & Sons, the biggest steel stockholder in Britain.

But it is still waiting for clearance from the European Commission, because the Treaty of Paris, drawn up by the European Coal and Steel Community, covers about 80 per cent of the products involved in the bid.

Expectations are that British Steel, led by Sir Robert Scholey, the chairman, will also be given the go-ahead by Brussels whose decision is due shortly, probably this month.

The purchase of Walker, its biggest customer, would be British Steel's first big acquisition since privatization. But it has been stalking other



Sir Robert: Bid strategy

on the Continent in line with the Scholey strategy of expansion in Europe, especially in products where value can be added.

Talks are still going on with Klöckner-Werke of West Germany on the possible acquisition of its Mannesmann division, which produces special sections and welded tube. Such a deal is likely to be worth at least £75 million.

There have been reports, so far unconfirmed by British Steel, that it has also made a bid approach to the Jose Maria Aristain group, Spain's leading producer of structural section steel.

Aristain is likely to command a price of at least £250 million because there are reportedly a number of suitors in the wings for the family-run enterprise.

The MMC report said there was a unanimous decision that the takeover of Walker would not be against the public interest in the "non-Paris" products at which it looked. These included reinforcement steels, bright bar, specialist profiles and tubes.

and a limited number of strip mill products.

The MMC especially examined the tube sector where British Steel and Walker together would account for 25 per cent of all stockholder sales, and structural hollow sections where they would hold a 43 per cent market share. But with strong demand for hollow sections competition has increased and British Steel's share of producer sales and Walker's of stockholder sales have both been falling.

The deal would give British Steel 35 per cent of the British steel stockholding market. But this is a much lower percentage than exists in some continental countries like West Germany and France.

Walker is privately owned, and run by two brothers, Messrs Jack and Fred Walker.

Telecomputing in accounts 'error'

By Melinda Wittstock

THE shareholders in Telecomputing have sent a second version of its annual reports and accounts. The USM quoted computer software group last week fell into a £770,000 pre-tax loss mainly as a result of a change in its accounting policy by the new management.

Due to what the company described as an "administrative error," the original accounts had been sent out last week with the approval of the USM quoted computer software group last week. The accounts fell into a £770,000 pre-tax loss mainly as a result of a change in its accounting policy by the new management.

The court also ordered an inquiry into charges for Mr Pantos, who resigned from Telecomputing last November when Ferrar Holdings, the computer company, took a 29.8 per cent stake.

Telecomputing's legal advisers have told it that Mr Pantos has no grounds to claim for damages as a result of the injunction.

Loan marketing under scrutiny

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE chairman of the Finance Houses Association has ordered a review of its members' marketing practices after the Government's attack on unsolicited mailing by lending institutions.

In his last annual statement as chairman, Mr John Hodder said: "While these comments were not primarily aimed at our members we shall be watching closely the developments of the banks' code of practice and if necessary adjust our own."

The FHA is asking its members to ensure that they take note of its voluntary code of practice. This asks them to "market responsibly and prudently" and "ensure that advertisements are fair and reasonable,"

although it does not forbid unsolicited mailshots.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, gave a warning in the Budget to lending institutions to review their unsolicited mailing operations.

Mr Hodder has also said that Britain's lenders face a difficult year unless interest rates fall substantially. The FHA's figures show that lending to borrowers grew by 1 per cent to £11.3 billion in the third quarter of last year. Property lending fell by £1 billion to £1.4 billion. Business leasing, however, grew 21 per cent to £6.1 billion.

Mr Hodder is being replaced as chairman by Mr Bob Wyatt, chief executive of Forward Trust.

The only change made to the accounts concerns liabilities arising from a court hearing on March 29, the afternoon the original accounts were sent out, forcing

" Shocked" company faces total production stoppage

Waterford workers call all-out strike

By Melinda Wittstock

CRYSTAL workers at Waterford Wedgwood's Irish plant have dealt a troubled company another blow by voting to stage an all-out strike, starting this morning, in protest over cost-cutting plans.

Waterford Wedgwood, which has been locked in battle with its 2,000 crystal workers for more than three months over much-needed measures to reduce costs, said yesterday it was "shocked and disappointed at the unwarranted action of the workers."

A last-minute formal meeting between management and the union yesterday afternoon failed to avert the unofficial strike, which is in protest over management plans to introduce longer working hours without pay, raise the retirement

age and stop the "bonanza payment" system for its 500 glass cutters.

The strike, which is certain to result in total production stoppage, comes nine months after the imposition of a two-year wage freeze and a temporary end of company pension contributions.

The company, which last month fell into losses of £20.6 million (£19.9 million) for 1989, compared with a last year £2.7 million pre-tax profit, said "urgent action" was needed to keep the troubled crystal business "viable" and "ultimately save jobs."

Mr Tony O'Reilly, the Irish-born chairman of EJ Heinz, which with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, took a 29.9 per cent stake in the ailing company last month, would not comment on the strike developments.

Waterford plans to cut costs by £10 million on an annualized basis, while also concentrating on product development and marketing initiatives in Britain and US. Shares fell 10 per cent.

Mr Paddy Byrne, the chief executive, and Mr Howard Kilroy, the chairman, were "away on business" yesterday.

Both Fitzwilson and Morgan Stanley said at the time of the partial bid that it would take two to three years to complete the recovery process, with Waterford needing to eradicate production bottlenecks by training more glass-blowers and cutters. Many were laid off redundancy packages three years ago.

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*including discontinued reinsurance business previously reported in "Other overseas".

SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

The Group's net assets increased by £334m to £9,937m (371p per share) at 31st December, 1989, excluding the value of long-term business. The solvency margin was 119% (1988-93%).

DIVIDEND

The Directors recommend a final dividend payable on 2nd July, 1990 of 8.0p per share making a total dividend for the year of 12.5p per share—an increase of 22%. The scrip dividend alternative will again be offered to shareholders.

4th April, 1990

The above statement is a summary of the year's results. The full audited Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 23rd April, 1990 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 16th May, 1990.

Sun Alliance Group plc

Head Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane London EC2N 2AB

Tilbury beats its own forecasts with £27.5m

By Jeremy Andrews

TIJBURY Group, the builder and property developer, has reported £27.5 million pre-tax profits for the year to December — about £500,000 more than it forecast last summer when it fought off Lilley's £137 million hostile bid.

Despite the gloom surrounding the construction sector, Mr Mike Bottjer, Tilbury's managing director, said trading in the current year had made a promising start.

Operating profits from construction rose from £5.66 million to £8.55 million, about £1 million more than had been indicated at the time of the bid. However, the bulk of the £1.1 million benefit of applying SSAP 24 — the new accounting standard on pensions — occurred in this division, which explained most of the difference. The contribution from property and housebuilding rose from £7.77 million to £17.1 million, in line with the forecast.

Interest on Tilbury's cash pile was £700,000 better than anticipated at £1.8 million and earnings per share were up 88 per cent at 91.9p — 1.5p higher than forecast. The final dividend — up 8.1p at 22p — was as promised, leaving the total 94 per cent ahead at 32p.

Mr Bottjer said that he had had no discussions with either Lilley or with John Goveit, the fund manager, which have respectively held 29.9 per cent and 14.1 per cent of the equity since the bid fell through. Mr Bottjer said that he was not looking over his shoulder all the time.

Mr Bottjer said Tilbury had held talks with Holzmann, the German construction group, about possible joint ventures. It was "a sensible company with sensible strategies which Tilbury knew."

He would not comment on Press speculation that he was trying to persuade Holzmann to make Lilley an offer for its stake.

Despite the uncertain market conditions, Tilbury said its



Earth-moving: Mike Bottjer reports Tilbury's forecast-topping £27.5 million profit

strengths in the civil engineering and specialist contracting fields, as well as its Scottish-based housebuilding activities and the opportunities offered by its property development

Cluff to pay maiden 1p and obtain full listing

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

CLUFF Resources, the Africa-oriented gold mining and exploration group, is paying a maiden dividend of 1p a share and is to graduate from the USM to a full stock exchange listing.

Mr Isaacs is charged that on or before December 15, 1989, he enacted or engaged in a course of conduct which created a false or misleading impression as to the market in, or value of, an investment thereby inducing any person to acquire, dispose, subscribe or underwrite this investment.

Mr Isaacs, aged 33, of 19 Marlborough Hill, north west London, has been bailed to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on April 25.

Until two months ago Mr Isaacs worked as a partner with Walsh Lawson Freeman,

strengths in the civil engineering and specialist contracting fields, as well as its Scottish-based housebuilding activities and the opportunities offered by its property development

programme, ensured it was well placed for the future.

Disagreement over the value of a site at Linwood, bought for only £6.1 million last year, lay behind Lilley's unwillingness to raise the terms sufficiently to ensure the success of its bid. However, Tilbury has already sold 15 acres, to be used by Asda, for £11 million.

Greens, with an annual turnover of £19 million, provides Dalgety with the market leader in pre-packed baking mixes. Its Homepride division has flour and mixes whose brands include Pearle Duff, Granny Smith and Royal.

The mixes market has been shrinking in volume but with product innovation has been growing in value by about 4 per cent a year.

There is a range of Homepride casserole sauces but Hammonds will be Dalgety's first entry into the expanding table sauce market, worth about £120 million a year and growing at about 5 per cent a year.

Hammonds has its strongest brand presence in the North of England, being based, like Greens, in Yorkshire. But it is also a supplier to the catering trade and produces own-label ranges.

Mr Maurice Warren, Dalgety's chief executive, said: "We look to growing the Hammonds brand which brings us a secure entry into the table sauces market."

The shares traded 1p lower at 92p.

Solicitor charged under Financial Services Act

By Our City Staff

POLICE investigating sudden movements in the share price of Williams Holdings, last November, yesterday charged Mr Martin Charles Isaacs, a solicitor, with an offence under Section 47 of the Financial Services Act.

Mr Isaacs, aged 33, of 19 Marlborough Hill, north west London, has been bailed to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on April 25.

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End of the game for Serif Cowells

By Gillian Bowditch

The craze for Trivial Pursuit seems to be over. Pre-tax profits at Serif Cowells, which makes the board game, fell from £6.32 million to £3.66 million last year on sales of £63.6 million, down from £67.5 million. Earnings per share fell from 16.9p to 9.4p and the dividend for the year has been cut from 6p to 3.5p.

There was an extraordinary deficit of £1.68 million due to the closure of the book and colour division at WS Cowell, the printing business, which lost £590,000 last year.

Mr Alan Brook, chairman, said Serif had given a warning a year ago that the sales and profitability of Trivial Pursuit would decline significantly in 1989, and al-

though this was so, it had not been as bad as predicted.

The company shipped more than 2 million Trivial Pursuit games last year and is finalizing contracts to manufacture the game for the next few years. It does not intend to continue marketing the game.

Serif sold 1.25 million games of Pictionary last year and has gained the British li-

cence for Nintendo video games.

Spottiswoode Ballantyne, the printing company acquired in May, performed above expectations. But it was a difficult year for Kems, the publishing business, which is now beginning to show positive results.

The shares fell 4p to 96p on the USM.

The fax and the fiction

ONE of the most pathetic attempts at a share price ramp since someone in a south London Post Office tried to persuade me the Japanese were buying British Steel lands on my desk. Addressed to the "Financial Editor" (sic) of *The Times*, and semi-through on someone's cheap Amstrad home fax machine, it claims to give the inside track on a forthcoming bid from Mel Morris's West Industries — market capitalization less than £6.5 million — for Mecca Leisure, valued at £224 million although falling fast after Tuesday's lousy figures. The link is claimed to be Robert Earl, a shareholder in West and in Mecca and in charge of the latter's US operations. This "junk fax" is riddled with the usual misconceptions and hysterical accusations. Assuming it went elsewhere — and these things almost always do — the market has given it pretty short shrift, as Mecca shares dropped another 5p to 72p. Good thing, too.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Return to sender

MR DAVID Donne, chairman of Argos, is about to sit right down and write himself a letter. Unlike the chap in the song he is not phoning for lost love but as a BAT small shareholder he is about to find himself the recipient of fewer than 500 Argos shares when the demerger of Argos from BAT is finalized this week. As

such he is eligible for the BAT facility to sell the shares free of commission and will be writing to himself to tell himself so. He is on safe ground as long as he does not make any recommendation to himself about whether or not to hang on to the shares. If he gave himself bad advice he could end up owing himself.

Abbey returns

ALL those frustrated almost-shareholders who were grinding their teeth to the Abbey National's "Abbey Endings" television advertisement produced to reinforce warm feelings for the Abbey after last summer's flotation will be

pleased to know that the ad, as opposed to the arrangements for the float, has won an award. The black and white commercial featured a group of children and Lionel Bart's sentimental theme and was voted the "Best Theme from a TV/Radio Commercial" in the Ivor Novello Awards, presented annually by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. Such was the ill feeling at the failure to deliver the share certificates on time that the Abbey had to repeat the campaign in the autumn when most shareholders had received replacement certificates. It will get another airing this weekend to celebrate the award — presumably paid for from the £15 million which the Abbey received in compensation from Lloyds Bank's Registrars for their part in mishandling the issue.

• SIGN in a Hampstead corner shop: "Never to be repeated ... Easter eggs at pre-pol tax prices."

Martin Waller

Brands exchange by food groups

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

DALGETY, the Homepride and Spillers foods and agribusiness group, is swapping its Memory Lane Cakes division for the Greens baking mix and Hammonds' sausages businesses of Grand Metropolitan Foods Europe (GMFE), part of the Grand Metropolitan group.

Dalgety is paying GMFE a cash adjustment of about £2.5 million in taking on Greens and Hammonds, which GMFE acquired when GrandMet purchased Pillbury.

Both sides say they are gaining. GMFE's chief executive, Mr Mike Hodgkinson, reckons that with Memory Lane's cakes business will be vying to be number one in Europe with RHM, whose leading brand is Mr Kipling. In the UK alone RHM is clear market leader with Lyons, part of Allied Lyons, at number two and GMFE third.

GMFE's existing cakes and frozen gateau business includes Fleur de Lys and Kaysens in the UK, Goldstein in Germany and France's Brossard, the Continent's leading brand. To the existing GMFE cake turnover of about £145 million will be added Memory Lane's £35 million.

Memory Lane Cakes has factories at Cardiff and Warrington which as well as turning out traditional cakes produce chilled items, such as cream gateaux, for retailers like Marks and Spencer.

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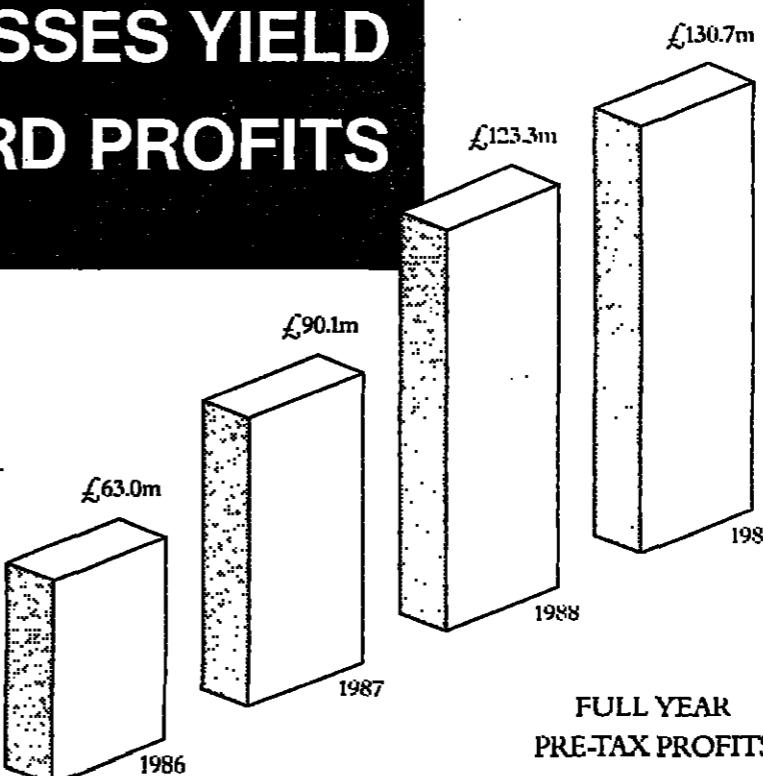
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FOUR CORE BUSINESSES YIELD RECORD PROFITS



FULL YEAR
PRE-TAX PROFITS

PRELIMINARY UNAUDITED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Turnover	£1919.0 million
Profit before tax	£130.7 million
Earnings per share	16.8 pence
Recommended dividend per share	8.5 pence

"We have concentrated our resources in areas with the greatest potential for growth."

(David Hopkinson, Chairman)

COMMENT

Two minutes' silence for the Severn Bridge

A welcome hush has fallen over the affairs of Eurotunnel. It may be that Alastair Morton, the chief executive, has taken a well-deserved holiday from his normal routine of hyper-activity. Perhaps the five-a-side contractors have tricked him into the hole and he has yet to find a way out. Possibly, the two sides may even have decided that megaphone negotiation is hardly the way to inspire confidence in the most important civil engineering project being undertaken this side of the millennium. Maybe everybody has a sore throat.

Whatever the reason, the hush has descended at exactly the right moment for Cecil Parkinson, Transport Secretary. Among a package of ideas for privately funded roads yesterday, he slipped in the news that the second Severn Bridge is to be built by the Anglo/French consortium Laing/GTM Entrepose. The short list was already down to two and the all-British team of Trafalgar House and BICC was left in the profitless position of runner-up. It would be hard to imagine a non-French consortium being awarded a similar contract in France, but that is the problem of the French, not ours.

Much has been learned from the mistakes of the structure of the Channel tunnel. The basic problem, which has led to all the blood and thunder, is that on one side were the builders, the 10 contractors, five British, five French, who devised the project. Their only payoff is the profit they can make from construction, for the fruits of operation fall to Eurotunnel, which in turn wants the project built as cheaply as possible.

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Typically, the ADT statement is terse. The group, it says, will seek to raise £100 million through preference shares that will convert into BAA shares. Precise terms may not be known until next week, but the stock is likely to carry a coupon of about 8 per cent, and convert at a premium of 16 to 19 per cent.

It is not a novel move. Effectively ADT cedes its right to any premium in the BAA share price in return for a significant reduction in its own carrying costs. At the same time, as Ashcroft would say, all ADT's options are open.

Among those options are further

share purchases, and yesterday's dip in the BAA price improves Ashcroft's chances of lifting his stake — now 45 million shares, or 9 per cent — above the 10 per cent he would need to requisition a meeting of BAA shareholders.

Kind words about BAA's performance are more scarce than Ashcroft's friends in the City, but the management benefits from the protection of the Government's golden share, and, more infuriating to Ashcroft, the company's own articles of association, which prevent any investor holding more than 15 per cent of the equity. It is this hurdle ADT needs to overturn, before it sets to work on Mr Parkinson at the Department of Transport.

The size of the ADT investment speaks for Ashcroft's commitment to this cause. Such, however, is his perception in the City that it is hard to resist the thought that his proposals would stand a better chance if promoted by almost anyone other than ADT — a point that appeared to be underlined as his brokers began trying to get the issue away last night.

David Brewerton



Shall we call him Lifeliner or Lifeline?

Harrison & Crosfield plc

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Pickwick Group to raise £9.07m

By Martin Waller

PICKWICK Group, the videos and records distributor, is raising £9.07 million net in a one-for-five rights issue, its first since its April 1987 flotation, to pay for a move into the French market and to fund further expansion.

Pickwick's 20 per cent shareholder, Pearson, has agreed to take up its rights. The bulk of the rest of the issue, at 200p, is underwritten. Pickwick shares lost 7p to 227p on the news.

The group is buying New Trade International, a Paris-based distributor of albums, cassettes and compact discs, for Fr13.8 million (£1.48 million) cash, £164,000 in new shares and a deferred consideration of up to £2.22 million. The move paves the way into the German market for Pickwick, which last year bought a distribution business in Denmark.

The balance of the rights issue will be used to fund future growth and leaves the group with no borrowings. As a result of the acquisition, the rights and the consequent interest savings, analysts have raised their forecasts for Pickwick from £5.8 million to £7 million in the current year.

Profits up at aerosol company

By Philip Pangalos

SWALLOWFIELD, the manufacturer of ozone-friendly aerosols which came to the US in October, 1988, lifted pre-tax profits by 11.6 per cent to £2.14 million in 1989 on turnover up 12.5 per cent to £16.2 million.

There is a final dividend of 3.4p, making 5.6p (3p). Earnings per share slipped from 14.6p to 14.4p as the number of shares in issue has increased.

Mr Terry Organ, the chairman, said 1989 was a difficult year in the retail sector as higher interest rates damped consumer demand.

He said the results showed a solid performance against this background.

Swallowfield's gearing increased to 92 per cent. Mr Organ said 1990 would not be an easy year in which to make profits, but the board expects steady progress.

The shares lost 4p to 151p on the news.

AB Electronic cuts jobs as interim tumbles to £5.4m

By Melinda Wittstock

UP TO 200 jobs are to be lost at AB Electronic Products, the Welsh electronic component manufacturer, which also announced a further slide in profits.

The Northampton plant is to be closed in an effort to "remain competitive" in the face of a declining defence industry.

AB is to incorporate the Northampton plant into its main Abergavenny site in South Wales, as a result of a slowdown in demand for its military connectors. Of the 220 workers at the Northampton plant, which AB acquired from Plessey in 1987, between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of them will be offered the opportunity to relocate to Abergavenny.

Mr Peter Phillips, the chairman, said he was "sad" about the decision to close the plant, but said that in the present competitive climate, it was crucial that the company reduce its cost base.

He said the plant closure, which will save it about £3 million in costs, does not signal a move away from defence operations. AB will retain all its defence product lines.

News of the redundancies came as AB announced a slide in pre-tax profits for the six months to end March to £3.4 million from £7.04 million in the previous year.

Turnover was up 26.6 per cent to £122.5 million, with operating profits falling only slightly from £6.98 million to £7.07 million. The interest charge increased from £36,000 to £1.62 million.

Earnings per share are down from 17.8p to 13p, while the interim dividend is unchanged at 4p.

Mr Phillips blamed the fall in profits on a further slackening of demand for its micro-electronic products, combined with operating problems in the assembly products division due to shortages of key materials such as microchips, leading to an inefficient utilization of plant and equipment.

But he said the problems in the assembly division, which has recently won several "substantial" customers, have now been alleviated.

AB said it was encouraged, however, by the performance of its automotive product group, which increased its profits and sales, particularly in Germany. Its expanding

telecommunications group, which makes cordless telephones, also improved its performance. Mr Phillips said this division is to take advantage of opportunities in cable and satellite television.

The group has also begun a "strategy review", in which disposals of some of its six divisions will be considered. "We need to be a worldwide company to service our automotive customers, and that means R&D, capital expenditure. It could be that we do not have the resources to be able to do this with all our product divisions."

More cost-cutting is also on the cards, with AB planning to improve efficiency at its existing plants.

Profits at Butler Cox surge 43% to £1.32m

BUTLER Cox, the management consultancy specializing in information-technology and which came to the market last May, lifted pre-tax profits 43 per cent to £1.32 million in the year to end-December.

Earnings per share rose by 60 per cent to 16.4p. There is a final dividend of 3.5p, making 32.5p for the year.

Group revenue increased by 24 per cent to £9.37 million, with 37 per cent coming from overseas. Management consultancy accounted for 54 per cent of the group's revenue, improving 23 per cent to £2.5 million.

Cash at year-end stood at £2.7 million and overall interest gains jumped by £201,000 to £254,000.

Mr George Cox, the managing director, said: "The company had another very exciting and successful year which is particularly pleasing in this first year as a publicly-quoted company."

Mr Cox added that February's acquisition of Cranfield IT Institute, placed the company in a strong position in the field of management education in the European marketplace.

INCREASING numbers of companies and local authorities are trying to persuade their customers to pay their bills by direct debits. These allow them to take money from the accounts of their customers, but can cause difficulties when the account holder tries to cancel.

Family Money on Saturday details when customers may

Danger of direct debits

be unable to stop payments being taken from their accounts by retailers even when they have cancelled goods or the service for which they were paid.

Also under scrutiny are the returns from guaranteed income bonds, deferred interest loans and the potential for windfall gains from building societies.

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

● The Stockwatch service gives readers instant telephone access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds.

● Stock market comment: the general situation can be obtained by ringing 0898-121220.

● Company news: items can be obtained by telephoning 0898 121221.

● The prices of shares actively trading in the market may be obtained by telephoning 0898 121225.

● Calls are charged at a rate of 38p per minute during peak times (25p standard).

● All telephone charges include VAT.

Recovery to £4.92m for Ash & Lacy

By Philip Pangalos

THE shares in Ash & Lacy, the West Midlands engineering group, advanced by 15p to 113p after a recovery in second-half profits.

Pre-tax profits climbed from £4.85 million to £4.92 million in the year to December 29, despite an 8 per cent fall at half time, on turnover up 12.4 per cent at £61.5 million.

Earnings per share were unchanged at 13.29p, but the final dividend is improved to 3.9p (3.5p), making 6.4p (6.0p) for the year.

Mr David Fletcher, chairman, said the company had a poor first half because margins narrowed on galvanizing after an increase in zinc prices.

Margins recovered in the second half as prices came back down.

An extraordinary charge of £865,000 relates to a deficit on last May's sale of Hawrill, a 50 per cent owned cladding manufacturer, which made operating losses of £123,000 (£372,000 loss) in the period.

There were improved performances from galvanizing, which contributed about £2.9 million to operating profits on sales of about £25 million, and non-ferrous stockholding which made profits of about £1.5 million on sales of about £15 million.

Ash & Lacy Perforators, one of Europe's largest producers of perforated and expanded metal, had static operating profits at about £600,000, on sales in the region of £12 million.

The company's properties have been professionally revalued at £14.45 million (£7.34 million), and assets per share rose 37 per cent to 104p.

Mr Hoare said he tried to tell Mr Saunders that Mr Roux had reasons why he wanted certain lawyers. On the second issue, he said Mr Saunders should speak to more senior Bain people.

The court has heard how Mr Roux was later to allege irregular payments were made during the bid, and implicated Mr Saunders. Mr Roux gave evidence in the early days of

The Guinness trial

Saunders 'wanted Roux to be more co-operative'

David would be a mistake, but he returned to Bain to find Kingsley Napley had taken over the case.

Cross-examined by Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Saunders, Mr Hoare admitted he did his best to get Mr Saunders and Mr Roux together but he was "piggy in the middle."

Mr Ferguson asked: "You wanted the issue resolved so Guinness could have a common front, but your efforts were thwarted by equal resistance on the part of Saunders and Roux?" Mr Hoare replied: "Absolutely correct."

He admitted even before December 1986 the relationship between the pair had been difficult but denied Mr Saunders had complained of a lack of information from Mr Roux on finance.

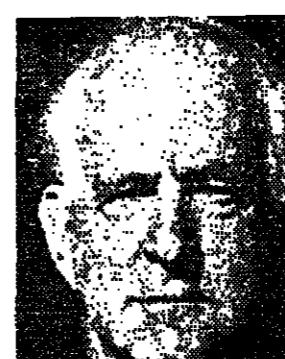
Mr Ferguson asked about other areas Mr Saunders complained of Mr Roux before December. Mr Hoare said: "The work style of Saunders and Roux in some respects is different."

"Saunders is a man who will leave no stone unturned, Roux is a believer in dealing with the most critical issues and dealing with those thoroughly."

"There was also a time commitment. Saunders felt Roux was not prepared to spend the time he himself was spending."

Mr Saunders, aged 54; Mr Gerald Ronson, Heron Corporation chief, aged 50; Mr Anthony Barnes, a stockbroker, aged 44; and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, variously deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The prosecution alleges an illegal share support operation was mounted to ensure victory in the bid for Distillers.

The trial continues today.



Saunders: 'I wanted Roux'

the hearing after being given immunity from prosecution.

Mr Hoare told of a "tense" meeting with Saunders, Mr Tom Ward, a Guinness director, and Mr Roux over the issue of who should represent Guinness during the Department of Trade probe into the £2.7 billion bid.

He said Mr Saunders telephoned him on December 18, 1986, to discuss the situation.

He said: "There were two particular topics. The first was that Saunders had wanted me to spend time with Roux and to influence and persuade him to co-operate to a greater extent in dealing appropriately with the DTL."

"Secondly, he suggested that unless we made significant progress at some time in the future, Bain involvement might be damaged in some way."

Asked why Mr Roux did not trust the solicitor, he said Mr Roux's only comment was that Sir David had asked him to misrepresent an issue he believed not to be true.

Mr Hoare added later: "My understanding from Roux was that he did not trust Sir David and therefore felt very uncomfortable if Sir David took responsibility for the Guinness perspective, in case he should be put in a negative light."

Mr Hoare said he, too, told Mr Saunders the next day that he felt the appointment of Sir

Hoare was not to be true.

Mr Hoare said he tried to tell Mr Saunders that Mr Roux had reasons why he wanted certain lawyers. On the second issue, he said Mr Saunders should speak to more senior Bain people.

The court has heard how Mr Roux was later to allege irregular payments were made during the bid, and implicated Mr Saunders. Mr Roux gave evidence in the early days of

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STOCK MARKET

Selling knocks Queensway

SHARES in Lowndes Queensway hit a low as the sorry plight of the furniture retailer continued. The price lost another 4p to just 24p.

Dealers reported selling of the shares, which has forced market-makers into further defensive markdowns. This has made it difficult for those investors who took up February's £35 million rights issue at 5p a share to sell stock. The spread — the difference between the bid and offer price — is now 1p. The best which the sellers could hope to obtain last night was 24p a share — less than half the rights issue price.

Lowndes was a buyout from Harris Queensway in 1988. The shares were floated at 100p but then fell sharply as the rise in interest rates hit consumer spending and took its toll of profits.

In an attempt to stop the rot, the group arranged an £18.5 million rights last October at 20p a share and a further issue at 5p in February. The price has continued to lose ground ever since. The company says trading remains tough with sales below budget. But talk of a 50 per cent drop in sales is thought unlikely. Figures next month are expected to make grim reading.

The rest of the equity market made a firm start, encouraged by the overnight rally on Wall Street. But rises were not held with prices drifting on lack of follow-through and worries that Tokyo would suffer another 1,000-point fall today. The FT-SE 100 index ended 9.1

down at 2,231.6 with the turnover of 505 million shares boosted by bed-and-breakfast deals to establish year-end tax losses. The FT index of 30 shares shed 11.6 at 1,749.7.

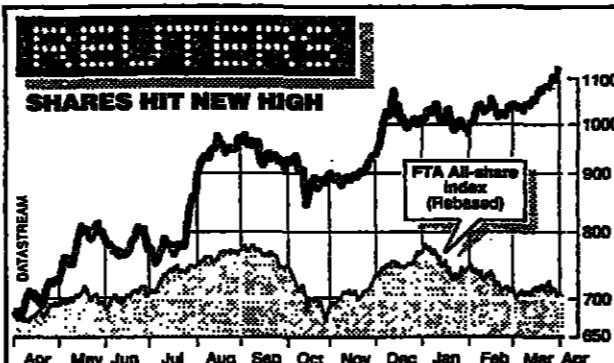
The fall in the FT-SE 100 might have been greater but for heavy trading in the futures market. The June contract touched 2,280 at one stage. Government securities took their cue from a stronger pound, sporting gains of up to 2% at the longer end.

Among the leaders, SmithKline Beecham, which sold its Bovril, Marmite and Ambrosia food brands for £157 million this week, firmed 14p to 5034p. Analysts and fund managers complained that the company had little new to say at yesterday's presentation.

BAA Group fell 19p to 385p, worried that Mr Michael Ashcroft's ADT has

Deals are due to start tomorrow in Argos which is being floated off by BAT Industries. Last night, dealers were talking of an opening price of up to 210p. But London will have to absorb at least 4 per cent of the shares which belong to ADT holders in the US who are forced sellers.

stopped adding to its holding. He already has a 9 per cent stake, worth £150 million, and has decided to launch a £100 million bond, convertible into BAA shares. Dealers say the proceeds will help to ease the financing costs of ADT's original stake.



The move has already received the thumbs-down from a number of institutions. ADT has been arguing that BAA's articles of association be altered to allow shareholders to own a maximum of 15 per cent of the company.

Mecca Leisure continued to reel from Tuesday's disappointing figures and news of soaring debts, ending a further 7p lower at 70p — a two-day loss of 40p.

AB Electronics slipped 1p to 261p after a fall in pre-tax profits from £7 million to £5.3 million. The group executive, was said to have met Warburg Securities to outline his plans. Judging by the price, unchanged at 127p, the meeting was unremarkable.

shares last month in the hope of buying them back cheaper. Merrill Lynch, the US securities house, is believed to have awarded the shares a triple-A rating following the foreign exchange markets.

The group gave a presentation for analysts in the City on

Tuesday night and it seems to have been well received. The profits from the new system are expected to start flowing through within a matter of months. But London's bullish stance will add to the problems of New York traders who are believed to have gone short of 12 million.

Reuters

Philip Morris was top of the list of active shares, rising 4p to 41. Some other briskly-traded shares were American Express, up 4p to 655p, and Upjohn Co, ahead 4p to 38p.

● Tokyo — The Nikkei index lost 316.78 points, or 1.10 per cent, at 28,442.94. Prices closed down but off their lows as bearish nerves affected the market.

Fears that some groups speculating in the market are facing financial difficulties aggravated a general uneasiness that the market has not touched bottom. Prices of companies in which they are believed to have invested fell.

● Frankfurt — The DAX index closed 5.08 lower at 1,963.25.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index slid 1.57 to 2,960.88. The broadly-based Hong Kong index ended 0.47 down at 1,946.62.

● Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index finished 1.14 up at 1,516.8.

● Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index fell 12.91 to 1,543.01. (Reuters)

197p as bid hopes evaporated following the disposal of Mr Jack Debell's 13 per cent stake. The placing was handled by Smith New Court, the broker, and the stake was almost four times oversubscribed.

It has been a busy time lately for Smith, one of the few publicly quoted securities houses, which this week placed the Hong Kong government's remaining 3.7 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom, 58 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, down 7p at 520p. The Smith share closed last night 7p higher at 526p.

Westminster & Country Properties leapt 65p to 170p on the news of a boardroom reshuffle and the sale of a big stake in the company. Members of the controlling Parkes family have sold 995,000 shares, or 29.9 per cent, at 205p each. Part of the holding has been picked up by two former Parkdale directors, Mr Robert Breare and Mr Jeremy Priestley, who have been appointed to the board.

Shares in Rex Williams, the troubled leisure company headed by the boxing promoter Mr Frank Warren, were suspended at 10p, pending an announcement. The shares have been under a cloud since Mr Warren was shot last year.

Courtwell, the clothing group, fell 3p to 1p. The company is being forced to write down the value of many of the assets of Leisure Investments and to make substantial provisions for losses and reorganization costs.

Michael Clark

Dow up in opening dealings

THE Dow Jones industrial average rose by 6 points to 2,742.71 in early trading. Shares were narrowly mixed with blue chips slightly ahead but the broad market little changed. Profit-taking countered buying which came after Tuesday's 30-point rally. Falling and rising shares were about evenly matched.

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Profits at KCA slip to £2.1m

KCA Drilling, the oil services company, reported pre-tax profits of £2.1 million for 1989, down from £2.8 million. Turnover slipped to £23.21 million (£26.48 million) and earnings per share from 3p to 2.11p. These declines reflected the reduced scope of two North Sea contracts.

No dividend will be paid "in view of the current climate in the oil industry." KCA is now 51 per cent owned by Outline Ltd, controlled by the Norwegian Bystad shipping and drilling family.

Exploration dip

The Exploration Company of Louisiana, an oil and gas group, reported a fall in pre-tax income to \$1.12 million for 1989, against \$2.21 million, having been affected by exceptional costs. Income per share was halved to 1 cent. Once again, there is no dividend.

Herring jump

Herring Son & Daw Holdings, the commercial estate agent and property consultant, reported a 65 per cent jump in 1989 pre-tax profits to £3.43 million. Eps were up from 13.69p to 19.93p. A final dividend of 3.25p makes 5.75p (4p).

Boustead up

Boustead, the international trading and industrial group, booted taxable profits by 32 per cent to £5.1 million in 1989 and is paying a 1p final dividend, lifting the total from 1.1p to 1.5p. Eps were up 30 per cent to 4.8p.

Friendly ahead

Friendly Hotels made pre-tax profits of £5.04 million (£3.17 million) last year on sales of £26.6 million (£20.9 million). Eps rose from 17.1p to 21.5p and the final dividend is 2p, making 3.35p (2.7p).

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Australian rates fall



Election promise kept: The Prime Minister, Bob Hawke (left), with Paul Keating

THE Australian Government fulfilled an election promise yesterday by moving to reduce business and home loan rates (David Tweekell writes from Sydney).

They cut prime lending rates by about 1 per cent to between 16.25 and 16.5 per cent.

They cut prime lending rates by about 1 per cent to between 18.5 and 18.75 per cent. Cash rates late yesterday were cut to between 15 and 15.5 per cent, from about 16.75 per cent.

However, the Reserve Bank said it would not allow further interest rate falls in the foreseeable future. The bank governor, Mr Bernie Fraser, said: "This action follows yesterday's board meeting and

for the first time in two years, banks cut mortgage

consultations with the Treasurer."

Mr Keating described the move as "the arrangement I have with the bank."

"This monetary policy action has been taken against a background of an ongoing easing in demand and improving balance of payments."

"Demand must grow more slowly than production for an extended period ahead. The Government will not risk the re-emergence of demand or cost pressures by an inappropriate easing of policy."

The fast-growing environment

'Only four out of ten can work out cost of credit'

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

ONLY four out of ten people can work out how much credit costs them, according to a survey commissioned by Save & Prosper.

The investment house asked what the cost would be of borrowing £1,000 for a year for a credit card with an annual percentage rate of 30 per cent. The correct answer is £300. But although S & P showed cards depicting a range of possible answers only 40 per cent of the 1,433 questioned gave the answer £251 to £300.

Thirty three per cent admitted they did not know how to

work out the cost of an APR in pounds. Nine per cent thought it would be £351 to £450 and 5 per cent estimated it would be more than £450. The same proportion guessed the cost at £51 to £150 and £151 to £250.

Three per cent of adults reckoned the cost would be less than £50 and this rose to 4 per cent of credit card users.

Within the sample, women, the elderly and people in the DE socio-economic classes were least likely to know what the correct payment would be. But even half the people aged 25 to 54 in the ABC1 categories, the main users of credit

cards, got the simple calculation wrong.

Mr Ian Lindsey, Save & Prosper's director in charge of credit card services, said: "It is really shocking that after 15 years of the Consumer Credit Act, half of the people who use credit cards still don't know their APRs. Surely it is time for the Department of Trade and Industry to act to make credit card costs more obvious and meaningful to customers."

For, until the customer learns to differentiate between the cards on basic cost grounds, a monopoly might just as well exist in this market."

Ocean increases pay-off after rise to £47.1m

By John Bell, City Editor

OCEAN Group is reaping the benefits of its massive restructuring over the past three years with strong growth in all three divisions. Profits, dividends and earnings per share are all forged ahead.

When Mr Nicholas Barber, chief executive, took over in 1986, the group, then called Ocean Transport and Trading, had 70 per cent of its business in shipping and fuel distribution.

All of these activities have since been sold. The reshaped company now trades in freight, environmental and marine services.

Pre-tax profits last year climbed 22 per cent to £47.1 million, while earnings per share were 24 per cent ahead at 28.1p. The board recommends a final dividend of 9.19p per share, making a total for the year of £14.3p, a rise of 15 per cent.

Trading profit in freight and distribution services rose almost 30 per cent to £25.1 million. The group has recently won the second of three major contracts in the sector. Favourable exchange rate movements, and 1988 acquisitions boosted the division's organic growth.

The fast-growing environment

in spite of heavy capital investment, which amounted to some £200 million in the past three years. Last year, £66 million was spent in acquisitions and new ventures, but gearing at the year-end was a comfortable 28 per cent.

For the present year, analysts are looking for profits of about £55 million, a rise of 17 per cent.

Ocean shares were unchanged at 334p.

Hanover Druce shares Yo-Yo after warning

By Gillian Bowditch

HANOVER Druce, the estate agency and property management company, saw its shares Yo-Yo 38p after a profits warning that the year to February 1990 would show a pre-tax loss of about £2.25 million compared with a pre-tax profit of £2.14 million. The final dividend is to be cut.

The group has been profitably

in the past three years. Last year, £66 million was spent in acquisitions and new ventures, but gearing at the year-end was a comfortable 28 per cent.

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WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg're (p)	Yearly chg're (p)	Daily chg're (%)	Yearly chg're (%)	Daily chg're (\$US)	Yearly chg're (%)
The World (free)	898.0	-0.7	-17.2	0.0	-12.8	-0.1	-15.7
EAPE (free)	1333.3	-0.7	-17.4	-0.1	-12.8	-0.1	-15.8
Europe (free)</							

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No.	Company	Group	Code or less
1	WPP	Paper, Print, Adv.	
2	LASMO (as)	Oil, Gas	
3	Blockis Lois	Drapery, Stores	
4	Kwik Save	Food	
5	Relyon	Industrials L-R	
6	Tubrook	Transport	
7	Anglia TV 'A'	Leisure	
8	Williams Holdings (as)	Industrials S-Z	
9	Kodak	Electronics	
10	Tankins	Industrials S-Z	
11	Color Opt	Oil, Gas	
12	Carlton (B)	Transport	
13	Casson	Property	
14	Maxwell Comm (as)	Newspapers, Pub.	
15	Lister	Textiles	
16	Br Aerospace (as)	Motors, Aircraft	
17	TNT	Transport	
18	Brietary Inv.	Industrials A-D	
19	Log	Transport	
20	Volkswagen	Industrials S-Z	
21	Colroy	Building, Roads	
22	Motors	Industrials L-R	
23	HTV Group	Leisure	
24	Lowe Group	Paper, Print, Adv.	
25	Savoy Hotels 'A'	Hotels, Cafeterias	
26	Worcester	Industrials S-Z	
27	Auto Soc	Electrical	
28	Seville	Property	
29	TI (as)	Industrials S-Z	
30	McLeod Russell	Industrials L-R	
31	Stearley	Building, Roads	
32	Unitech	Electrical	
33	Brasewate	Industrials A-D	
34	Wilkes (James)	Industrials S-Z	
35	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
36	Central TV	Leisure	
37	IMI (as)	Industrials S-Z	
38	Clygrave	Property	
39	Strong & Fother	Shoes, Leather	
40	Sabre Water	Water	
41	Shafsbury	Property	
42	Christies Int	Industrials A-D	
43	Southeast Prop	Property	
44	BAT (as)	Tobaccos	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Two people shared yesterday's £6,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. They were Mr Kenneth Neale from Bromley in Kent, and Miss Sally Johnson from Wimbledon in south London.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

602	725	846	975	1,025	1,125
102	125	145	165	185	205
125	145	165	185	205	225
145	165	185	205	225	245
165	185	205	225	245	265
185	205	225	245	265	285
205	225	245	265	285	305
225	245	265	285	305	325
245	265	285	305	325	345
265	285	305	325	345	365
285	305	325	345	365	385
305	325	345	365	385	405
325	345	365	385	405	425
345	365	385	405	425	445
365	385	405	425	445	465
385	405	425	445	465	485
405	425	445	465	485	505
425	445	465	485	505	525
445	465	485	505	525	545
465	485	505	525	545	565
485	505	525	545	565	585
505	525	545	565	585	605
525	545	565	585	605	625
545	565	585	605	625	645
565	585	605	625	645	665
585	605	625	645	665	685
605	625	645	665	685	705
625	645	665	685	705	725
645	665	685	705	725	745
665	685	705	725	745	765
685	705	725	745	765	785
705	725	745	765	785	805
725	745	765	785	805	825
745	765	785	805	825	845
765	785	805	825	845	865
785	805	825	845	865	885
805	825	845	865	885	905
825	845	865	885	905	925
845	865	885	905	925	945
865	885	905	925	945	965
885	905	925	945	965	985
905	925	945	965	985	1,005
925	945	965	985	1,005	1,025
945	965	985	1,005	1,025	1,045
965	985	1,005	1,025	1,045	1,065
985	1,005	1,025	1,045	1,065	1,085
1,005	1,025	1,045	1,065	1,085	1,105
1,025	1,045	1,065	1,085	1,105	1,125
1,045	1,065	1,085	1,105	1,125	1,145
1,065	1,085	1,105	1,125	1,145	1,165
1,085	1,105	1,125	1,145	1,165	1,185
1,105	1,125	1,145	1,165	1,185	1,205
1,125	1,145	1,165	1,185	1,205	1,225
1,145	1,165	1,185	1,205	1,225	1,245
1,165	1,185	1,205	1,225	1,245	1,265
1,185	1,205	1,225	1,245	1,265	1,285
1,205	1,225	1,245	1,265	1,285	1,305
1,225	1,245	1,265	1,285	1,305	1,325
1,245	1,265	1,285	1,305	1,325	1,345
1,265	1,285	1,305	1,325	1,345	1,365
1,285	1,305	1,325	1,345	1,365	1,385
1,305	1,325	1,345	1,365	1,385	1,405
1,325	1,345	1,365	1,385	1,405	1,425
1,345	1,365	1,385	1,405	1,425	1,445
1,365	1,385	1,405	1,425	1,445	1,465
1,385	1,405	1,425	1,445	1,465	1,485
1,405	1,425	1,445	1,465	1,485	1,505
1,425	1,445	1,465	1,485	1,505	1,525
1,445	1,465	1,485	1,505	1,525	1,545
1,465	1,485	1,505	1,525	1,545	1,565
1,485	1,505	1,525	1,545	1,565	1,585
1,505	1,525	1,545	1,565	1,585	1,605
1,525	1,545	1,565	1,585	1,605	1,625
1,545	1,565	1,585	1,605	1,625	1,645
1,565	1,585	1,605	1,625	1,645	1,665
1,585	1,605	1,625	1,645	1,665	1,685
1,605	1,625	1,645	1,665	1,685	1,705
1,625	1,645	1,665	1,685	1,705	1,725
1,645	1,665	1,685	1,705	1,725	1,745
1,665	1,685	1,705	1,725	1,745	1,765
1,685	1,705	1,725	1,745	1,765	1,785
1,705	1,725	1,745	1,765	1,785	1,805
1,725	1,745	1,765	1,785	1,805	1,825
1,					

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Former

Customs

Journalist's moral obligation to protect source is unlawful

X Ltd v Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd and Others
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmerham and Lord Lowry
[Speeches April 4]

An order for disclosure of a journalist's source under section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 on the ground that it was necessary in the interests of justice was only to be made if the judge was satisfied that the interests of justice were of such preponderating importance as to override the statutory privilege.

"Interests of justice" was used in the section in the sense that persons should be enabled to exercise important legal rights or to protect themselves from serious legal wrongs and was not confined to legal proceedings in a court of law.

Decisions as to whether disclosure was necessary were to be made by the courts and not by the journalist concerned, and there was no right of "conscientious objection". Any rule of professional conduct enjoining a journalist to protect his confidential source was subject to an implied exception to enable the journalist to obey the orders of the court.

Where a company had sought disclosure of a journalist's notes so as to identify a person who gave him, in breach of confidence, information in which there was no public interest in publication but publication of which would severely damage their business, then disclosure was clearly necessary in the interests of justice.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing appeals by the publishers of *The Engineer*, Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd, a subsidiary of Morgan-Grampian plc, and by Mr William Robin Goodwin, a former journalist on the magazine, against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Donoughue of Ballymote, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Raitt, Gilmour and Lord Justice McCowan) (*The Times* December 13, 1989; [1990] 2 WLR 421) upholding the order of Mr Justice Hoffmann (*The Times*, November 24, 1989) for disclosure of the identity of an informant who had supplied the magazine with confidential information concerning X Ltd and of the notes of the journalist's telephone conversation with the informant.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, Mr Andrew Nicol and Mr Robin Oppenheim for Mr Goodwin; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Heather Rogers for the publishers; Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr Raymond Daven for the plaintiff.

LORD BRIDGE said that the plaintiffs were two associated private companies whose anonymity was essential to preserve if the proceedings were to serve their intended purpose.

In 1989 they wished to raise additional capital and were engaged in preparing a corporate plan for submission to prospective lenders. Much of the information in the plan was in the highest degree confidential and its publication pending the finalization of the negotiations for which it was being prepared would be likely to cause them severe damage. In November 1989 one copy of the plan disappeared.

On the next day somebody telephoned to Mr Goodwin and gave him certain information about the plaintiffs. The nature of the information and the timing of the communication justify the inference that the source had obtained the information from the plan and was either the person who had stolen the missing copy or was closely associated with that person.

Mr Goodwin was minded to write an article for *The Engineer* about the plaintiffs based in part on the information given to him by the source and in part on other information from publicly accessible sources.

He telephoned to the plaintiffs to check certain facts and drafted an article, but before any decision was taken by the magazine to publish it, the plaintiffs, alerted by Mr Goodwin's inquiries, obtained an *ex parte* injunction to restrain publication.

When the matter came before Mr Justice Hoffmann, *inter partes*, the plaintiffs sought not only injunctions restraining publication but also orders for disclosure of the identity of the source and of the notes Mr Goodwin had made, as a means of discovering that identity. No such order regarding disclosure was made.

The outcome of several hearings was that the publishers, who did not know the identity of the source, were ordered to disclose the notes but could not comply with the order because they had no means of coercing Mr Goodwin.

On November 22, Mr Goodwin was ordered to disclose his notes by 3pm on the following day, but the Court of Appeal quashed that order by giving him the option of delivering his notes to the court in a sealed envelope which would remain sealed unless and until his avenues of appeal against the order for disclosure had been exhausted.

Mr Goodwin's failure to comply with the order was a plain declaration of his determination. They were "mixed up" in the

to set himself above the law. In view of the nature of his contempt of court in failing to comply with the order, the Court of Appeal held that they had a discretion whether or not to hear argument in support of Mr Goodwin's appeal and exercised the discretion to decline to do so.

The House had heard submissions made on Mr Goodwin's behalf *de bene esse*, leaving for consideration decision when delivering judgment the question regarding the rights of contemporaries to be heard as appellants at a time when they were in contempt of court.

Jurisdiction to order disclosure

The defendants' first submission was that the court had no jurisdiction to order disclosure of Mr Goodwin's notes, in that, since the sole purpose was to identify the source, they were in the position of mere witnesses who, although they might be compelled to testify in proceedings against the source or the thief, were not amenable to any process of discovery to assist the plaintiffs in advance of litigation against those parties.

The short answer to that submission was that Mr Goodwin and the publishers were already subject to the court's jurisdiction as parties properly impleaded as defendants to claims for *qui tam* injunctions to restrain them from publishing information imparted to them in breach of confidence.

In that capacity they were amenable to the full scope of the court's wide power to order disclosure *inter partes*. The notes were unquestionably discoverable for the purposes of the *qui tam* litigation.

The fact that the plaintiffs' primary purpose in seeking to obtain disclosure of the notes was to identify the source did not in any way inhibit or restrict the court's power to order disclosure for the purposes of the *qui tam* litigation, subject always to any claim for privilege from a defendant.

But if it were necessary to invoke the principle expounded in *Norwich Pharmacal Co v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1974] AC 133) which enabled the court in certain circumstances, to order disclosure by a party against whom the party seeking discovery had no cause of action, the defendants were within that principle.

Just as in the *Norwich* case the commissioners had innocently come into possession of goods tortiously obtained, so here the defendants, whether innocently or not, had come into possession of confidential information tortiously obtained and tortiously imparted to them.

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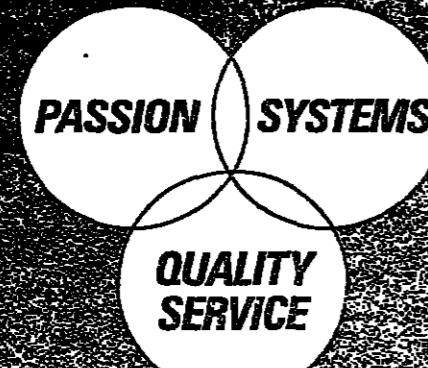
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Whiz-kids beat wheel of fortune

How a group of science students used tiny computers and radio transmitters secreted in their shoes, plus the laws of physics, to outwit the game of roulette in the gambling dens at Las Vegas

Can Newton's Laws of Motion and physics theories of chaos, friction and prediction be applied to the apparent randomness of the roulette wheel?

That was the tantalizing question that a group of computer science students studying at the University of California decided to solve. For just under a decade the group, led by Doyne Farmer, grappled with the logistical complexities of designing a computer that could be worn secretly and used in a casino.

It needed to be programmable in a gambling hall by someone observing the unique spin of a wheel and the way it bounced the ball. And the electronics had to be capable of discreetly relaying betting messages to an accomplice sitting at the roulette table with a stack of chips. The ambitious scheme's victims were the giddy gambling dens of Las Vegas, Nevada.

After numerous aborted tests with flawed designs, including computers in bras that short-circuited and gave off electrical shocks when the wearer perspired, the students finally created the ultimate gambling computer: a machine so small it could fit in a shoe and was capable of delivering more than a 33 per cent return at the tables. How much the team won at the tables is unclear.

Thomas Bass, one of the participants, has written a book on the team's exploits, *The Newtonian Casino*, to be published in Britain next month. He says the team is not prepared to reveal profits, although money was made.

"We proved it could be done and that was the real motivation behind the project," he explained, adding that one of today's professional gamblers could be working the world's casinos armed with little more than an electronic shoe and a lot of guile.

Certainly the legislators in Nevada took the project seriously. When news of the scheme emerged in 1985, they drafted tough laws banning any "device" capable of "projecting the outcome of the game" punishable by up to 10 years in jail and a fine of \$10,000 (about £6,100).

Most of the "whiz-kids" involved have since gone on to leading scientific careers in the United States. Doyne Farmer is group leader in the Theoretical Division at the prestigious Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico.

The lessons learnt trying to beat the tables are now being applied to more academic pursuits, including artificial life, population biology and other subjects centred on theories of chaos. In this extract from *The Newtonian Casino*, Thomas Bass describes what happened when he and Doyne Farmer used their system at the Sundance casino.

WE DRIVE into the parking garage behind Benny Binion's Horseshoe Club and circle up the ramp to the third floor.

"We shouldn't be seen talking to each other," Doyne says. "Not even in the street. In case there are any slip-ups,

we'll meet later in the Golden Nugget. Why don't you run through the signals again?"

"A bet on red means I take a five-minute walk. Even means sit down and play. A chip on the first 12, numbers and I raise stakes." This is one of the ways we'll communicate without talking for the next two hours. The other is by computer:

We park the car and lift two pairs of shoes off the rear seat. These are good leather Oxford with crepe soles. Only on peering inside does one notice that the bottoms are hollowed out. A channel three inches wide and a half inch deep runs from toe to instep. A second cavity is cut into the heel. This is professional work. Uppers and soles have been separated and reattached without a trace.

We reach back for two more shoe boxes. One of them holds power supplies, known to us as "battery boats". The second box holds our computers, which resemble orthopaedic insoles with toe clickers built on to the front end. The missing pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, computers and boots fit exactly into the cavities cut out of the shoes. The boots slip now backward into the heel. The computers snuggles up front under the balls of our feet.

Covered with screw-on lids made of polycarbonate "jail glass," the boots have two metal solenoids the size of pencil erasers sticking out of holes cut into the plastic. Activated by a small current, these mechanical thumpers are positioned to vibrate against the heel and arch of the foot. By varying the location and frequency of these buzzes, a computer driving the solenoids can generate dozens of discrete signals.

In technical terms, we are slipping into our soles a CMOS 6502 microprocessor with five kilobytes of random-access memory.

Apple computers are made with the same chip. We carry another 4,000 bytes of memory crafted into a program smart enough to beat roulette at a 44 per cent advantage.

"We proved it could be done and that was the real motivation behind the project," he explained, adding that one of today's professional gamblers could be working the world's casinos armed with little more than an electronic shoe and a lot of guile.

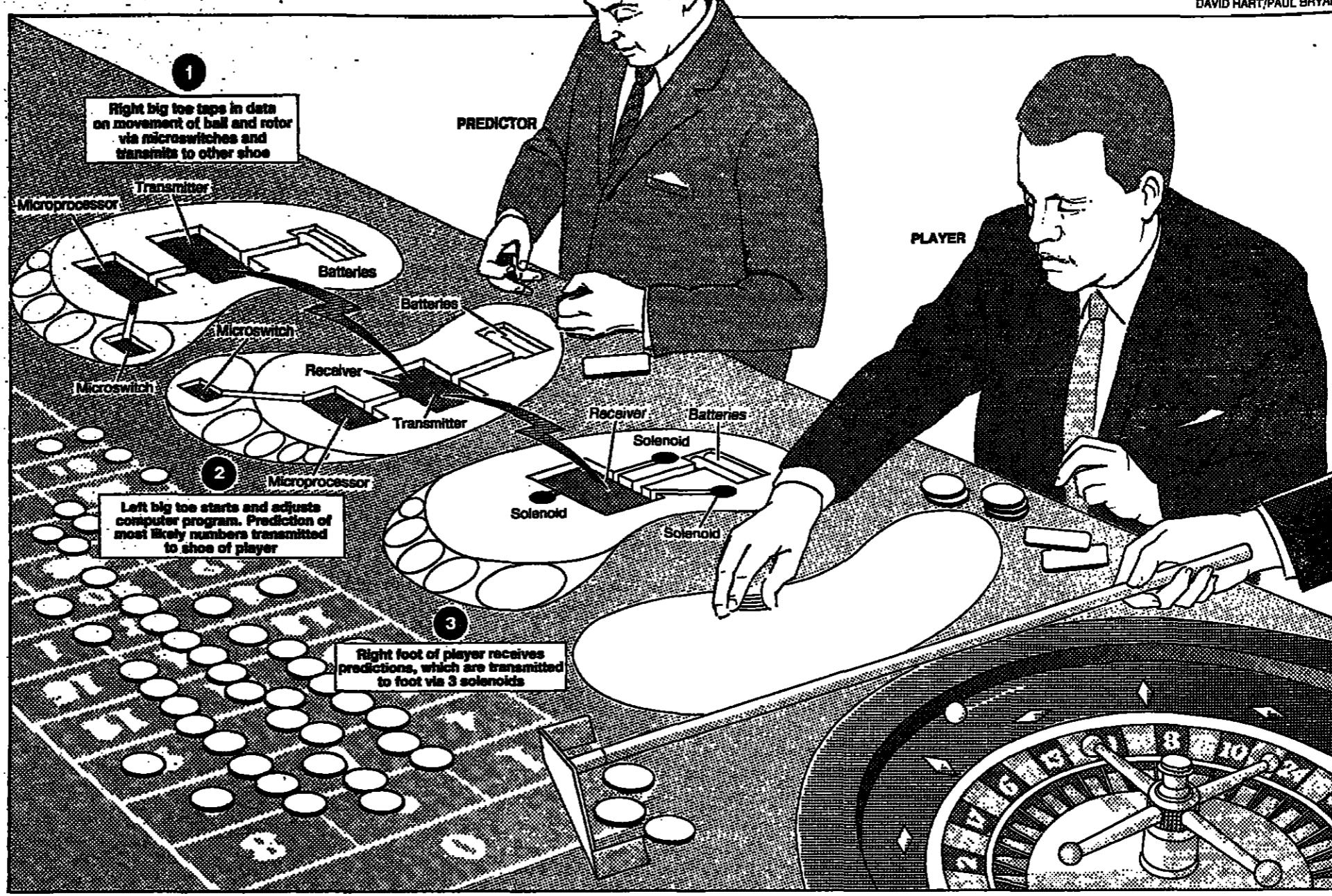
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How technology beat the spin of the wheel: "Why would anyone play roulette without wearing a computer in his shoe?" asks Thomas Bass, who was part of the casino team

the glory in beating roulette. Doyne steps out of the car and stands with his big toes positioned over the microswitches in his left and right shoes. His left toe is expert at motorizing the computer among subroutines in its program. His right toe is trained for tapping in data. With Doyne's computer on line and making predictions, another radio link connects it to the computer and solenoids in my right shoe.

This gives us a three-footed system, with functions divided between data taker and taker. Since I have no microswitches under my toes, my role is limited to fielding signals radioed from Doyne's computer to mine, and placing bets on the layout. I am the front man of the operation, a foil, a mere interpreter of signs tattooed on to the soles of my feet.

I face up my shoes and step out of the car. I am walking on five years of labour and several thousand dollars' worth of soft and hardware: a state-of-the-art computer. Walking to the head of the street, I turn into the Sundance, a second-rate casino. The wheel should prove no match for computer sandwiches built into magic shoes.

It is not by mathematical but by physical prediction that one beats the game of roulette. You need to know the exact forces acting on ball and rotor at each play of the game. This requires a computer programmed with an algorithm – a general equation describing the physics of roulette – into which you can plug the variables governing the wheel.

Does the ball travel further than or not as far as predicted? Are there unusual circumstances, such as atmospheric pressure, affecting its behaviour? From one play of the

game to the next, Doyne notes what the computer predicts against what the ball does. Until, ideally, the two sets of data could be plotted on top of each other in a bell curve neatly symmetrical about the mean.

Doyne places a bet on even my signal to play. I sit in the chair and hand the croupier \$300. He claps his hands and the pit boss watches as my balls get stuffed into the cash box with what looks like a wooden meat cleaver. The croupier again claps his hands and shoves across the felt three stacks of red chips now, according to the computer, in the copper disc in front of the

ball, at \$5 apiece. The pit boss gives me a good stare. It is this. The knock-over. My début into the big time. I have the layout in front of me memorized backwards and forwards. I know the arrangement of all the corresponding numbers on the wheel. I have them divided around the circle into octants, eight groups of four or five numbers apiece, that correspond in turn to one of eight different buzzes tattooed on to the bottom of my feet.

I get a high-frequency buzz on the front solenoid. A three. The third octant. Including numbers 1, 13, 24 and 36. I stretch over the baize and cover the first three numbers with chips. I skip the 36 at the bottom of the layout and substitute instead the 00, which lies near it on the wheel and closer to my seat.

Like a basketball player watching a free throw sail up and into the basket, I lean back on my heels and wait. I turn to the cocktail waitress and order a tequila sunrise. I smile at the pit boss. I'm not even looking as the croupier calls out the number 13 and places his pyramid on top of my bet.

Why would anyone play roulette, I think to myself, without wearing a computer in his shoe?

• *The Newtonian Casino*, by Thomas A. Bass, is published by Longman on May 21 at £12.95

is significantly larger than any other gambling system extant. The payout in roulette is 35 to one. For every \$100 invested – compounded 50 times an hour – one can expect a tidy hourly return of \$2,200. The money is sweet, but so too is

it. A 44 per cent advantage is gained by the computer in our shoes can play out in microseconds a game that in real life takes a million times longer.

With five years' practice, Doyne is an ace at driving the computer around its program. He adjusts variables by sight, or from a sixth sense developed by now in his big toes. The remaining variables are fine-tuned by trial and error.

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game to the next, Doyne notes what the computer predicts against what the ball does. Until, ideally, the two sets of data could be plotted on top of each other in a bell curve neatly symmetrical about the mean.

She has conceived of two genes that she calls as rs+, the right shift gene, and rs-, thought to be neutral or indifferent to the laterality of the brain. As everyone inherits one set of genes from each parent, a child with two right-handed parents inherits two copies of the same gene – designated rs+. From two left-handed parents the child inherits two copies of a gene designated rs-, or from a left-handed and a right-handed parent a mixture of genes designated rs+, she says.

From the results, Dr Annett suggests there is a genetic basis for left- and right-handedness and its influence on intelligence, which, she says, makes some of my biologist colleagues very unhappy.

But her measurements of dexterity in moving pegs showed that although it confirmed the strong bias in the population to right-handedness, the proportion of left-handed and ambidextrous

people cannot be explained by chance. She argues that as the two halves of the brain have to develop their communication pathways in infancy, there would be an advantage for the side of the brain that controls speech also to control handedness so that the children coordinate most effectively from the outset.

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The last group are the truly ambidextrous, but it appears from tests that the rs+ individuals are at the greatest disadvantage.

Dr Annett says this suggests that having one copy of the rs+ gene must be advantageous for human development, while having two must carry risks, or the gene would spread throughout the population and eliminated the rs-.

Prominent lefties: Albert Einstein and George Bush

biased right-handers. Twenty years ago Dr Annett concluded that no convincing evidence existed of a link between intellectual ability and a preference for left-handedness, right-handedness or mixed-handedness. Her change of mind came with some experiments devised initially for assessing dexterity for certain types of handicapped patients needing remedial treatment.

The experiments have since been used in a continuing study of hundreds of normal children from pre-school to university students.

The test consists of a board with two rows of 10 holes. One row is filled with pegs that are moved to the second row with

one hand. The board is then turned and the task is repeated with the other hand.

Unusual differences in the subjects' ability to carry out simple chores led to a more detailed study that covers reading and mathematical attainment and other skills.

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Talent with a bias to the left

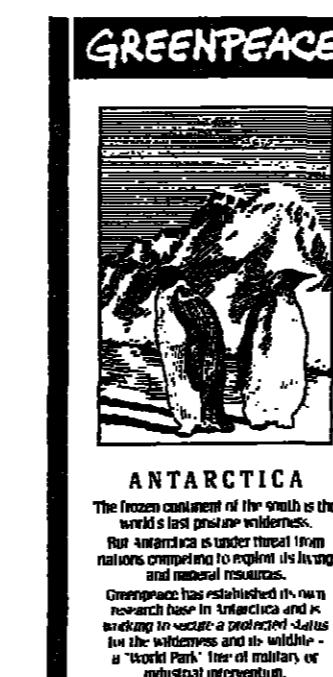


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ANTARCTICA

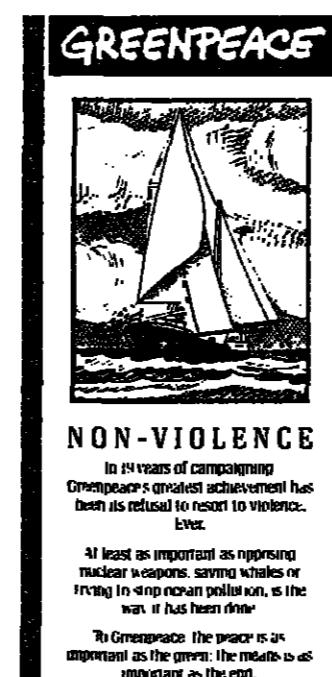
The frozen continent of the south is the world's last refuge for wilderness.

But scientists are under threat from nations competing to exploit its living and mineral resources.

Greenpeace is working to ban research bases in Antarctica and is trying to secure a protected status for the wilderness and its wildlife – "World Park".

To Greenpeace the park is as important as the ozone. It is as important as the ozone. It is as important as the ozone.

THANK GOD SOMEONE'S MAKING WAVES



NON-VIOLENCE

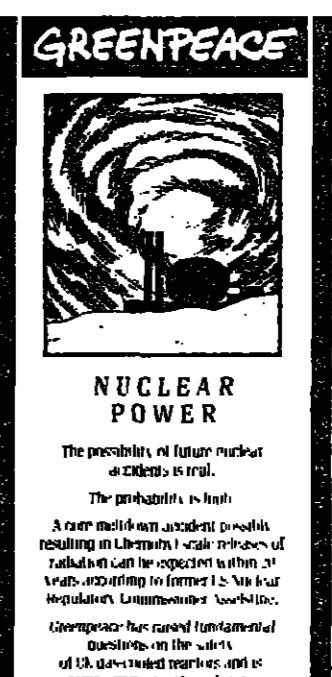
In a series of campaigns, Greenpeace is pushing for a ban on nuclear weapons.

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NUCLEAR POWER

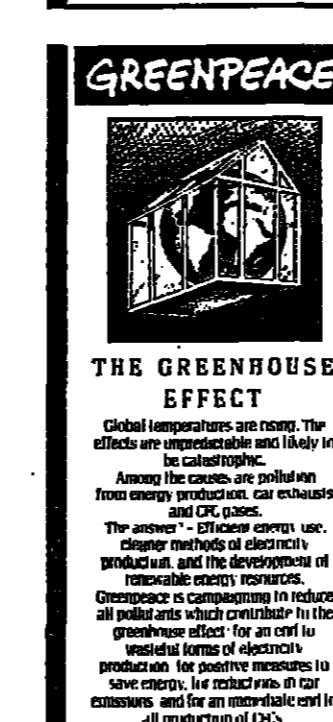
The possibility of future nuclear accidents is real.

The probability is high.

A car accident is possible. A chemical plant explosion is possible. Radiation can be expected within 24 hours according to former IAEA Nuclear Regulation Committee Vice-chairman.

Greenpeace has raised fundamental questions on the safety of nuclear reactors and is campaigning for their closure.

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THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

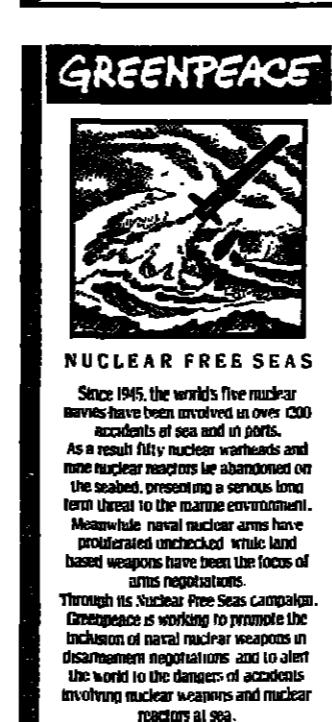
Global temperatures are rising. The effects are unpredictable and likely to be disastrous.

Among the causes are pollution from energy production, car exhausts and CFC gases.

The answer? Efficient energy use, cleaner means of electricity production, and the development of renewable energy resources.

Greenpeace is campaigning to reduce all pollutants which contribute to the greenhouse effect. It is also working to promote positive measures to save energy, to reduce car exhausts and for an immediate end to all production of CFCs.

THANK GOD SOMEONE'S MAKING WAVES



NUCLEAR FREE SEAS

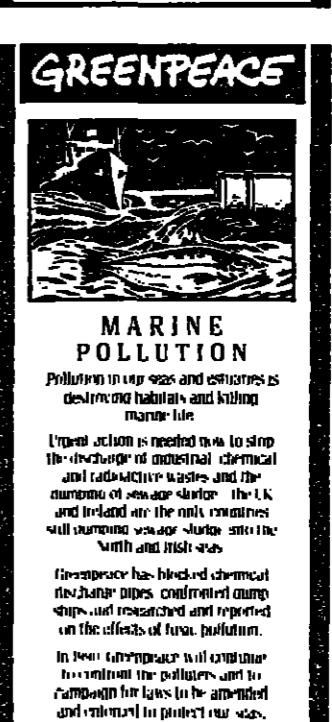
Since 1945, the world's first nuclear accidents have been involved in over 200 accidents of sea and in ports.

As a result of nuclear warheads and nuclear reactors abandoned on the seabed, presenting a serious long-term threat to marine life.

Marine life nuclear reactors have proliferated unchecked while land-based weapons have been the focus of arms negotiations.

Through its Nuclear Free Seas campaign, Greenpeace is working to promote the inclusion of naval nuclear weapons in disarmament negotiations and to alert the world to the dangers of accidents involving nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors at sea.

THANK GOD SOMEONE'S MAKING WAVES



MARINE POLLUTION</

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Global warming and a thaw in East-West relations has stimulated polar research, reports Pearce Wright

The Arctic comes in from Cold War

An international team of scientists is proposing to deliberately freeze an oceanographic research ship into the Arctic Sea ice, off Siberia. Then it plans to make a unique set of measurements, probably taking two to three years, as underlying currents push the frozen surface, plus the trapped vessel, across the cap of the world. At the same time, a revolutionary type of robot submarine will manoeuvre under the ice to begin systematic mapping of the hidden topography of the vast ice sheets that cover more than 20 million square kilometres in winter and 10 million in the summer.

The developments are among the future research projects under scrutiny at the first international meeting for scientists from all the

'The polar regions can be expected to provide the earliest evidence of change'

western and eastern bloc countries interested in the future of the Arctic, which began yesterday at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University.

In the political tension between the East and the West of the past 40 years, the strategic importance of the Arctic Sea ice, which is the hideaway of many missile-carrying submarines, discouraged scientific co-operation.

While collaboration at the South Pole has flourished through the

Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research, the northern hemisphere above latitude 66 degrees 33 minutes has been under-researched.

A change of attitude has come with the threat of global warming, which has fortunately coincided with the thaw in international relations and stimulated a surge of interest in the Arctic.

Research by Dr Peter Wadhams, director of the Scott Polar, has revealed the first clear signs of a thinning of the sea ice. In an area of more than 300,000 square kilometres – twice the size of Britain – of the Arctic Ocean north of Greenland, the ice thickness diminished by 15 per cent between 1976 and 1987.

He describes sea ice as "a thin and delicate skin separating the ocean from the atmosphere. It reflects most of the solar radiation falling on it, so helping to cool the planet's surface. If its area were reduced, the warming of the Earth would be accelerated due to the extra absorption of radiation by the ocean."

Dr Wadhams adds: "Sea ice also takes part in a set of complex interactions with the ocean, including the production of 'bottom water' by the sinking of surface water, which has been made more dense by the addition of salt from freezing."

This sinking carries carbon dioxide into the deep ocean. If this process stopped, the world would lose one of its major oceanic carbon dioxide 'sinks' causing an acceleration of the greenhouse effect.

In addition to thinning of the sea ice, Dr Wadhams said unusual events were being observed on the great continental ice sheets, covering Greenland and Antarctica to thicknesses of up to four to five kilometres.

He said that while the stability of the great land ice sheets was not seriously doubted, there were breakouts along coastlines of giant icebergs many times the normal volume, and up to 80 miles long, from the ice shelves.

Dr Wadhams describes the polar regions as only one of the indicator areas of the world in which the climatic effects of man-made interference with the environment may



Scientists drill a hole in the ice; now they want to deep freeze a ship

be detected. But he emphasises that they are especially important because the magnitude of the warming is expected to be greatest at those latitudes, and the polar regions can be expected to provide the earliest evidence of significant change.

Dr Wadhams is proposing to a newly formed International Arctic Sciences Committee, representing all countries interested in the northern seas, that they should join in a World Polar Watch.

The work of individual groups measuring atmospheric and ocean circulations, the extent and thickness of sea ice, changes in ice sheets and associated biological effects, would be pooled to ensure the earliest warning was obtained of climatic change.

The Scott Polar Research Institute provides a focal point for the activities of a large number of British teams engaged in Arctic exploration, which includes drilling

ice cores, installing buoys equipped with instruments that can be tracked over ranges of 15 to 20 miles by ship's radar or that transmit their measurements to satellites which relay the data to ground stations.

But one of the most remarkable ideas is to conduct a modern equivalent of an expedition conducted by the great Norwegian explorer, Nansen, who froze a ship in the Arctic ice in 1893.

A special egg-shaped vessel called the Fram was allowed to become trapped in the ice so that its drift could be followed between 1893-1896 to detect the underlying current which the explorer believed flowed directly across from one side of the pole to the other.

Since modern oceanographic ships cost thousands of pounds a day, the scientists are planning to equip an old vessel with the space-age instruments needed to plumb the physics, chemistry and biology of the Arctic Ocean.

SCIENCE REPORT

Marriage and the Womble Factor

Even though the Pas de Calais looks much the same as East Kent, hardly more than 20 miles away, the cultural and linguistic gulf is apparent even to a casual day-tripper.

Despite a thousand years of artistic and literary traditions on the subject, nobody has worked out by how much the character of the English differs from that of the French.

The scientific answer is 20.7 per cent. This measure of the difference in national character comes from a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by Robert Sokal, of the State University of New York, at Stony Brook, and Guido Buriani, of the University of Padua. They show how language barriers in western Europe coincide with sudden shifts in genetic constitution between populations. The researchers surveyed data on the distribution of 63 varieties of 19 genes, collected in 3,119 plants spread

across Europe. Making it into a map and integrating all the information with a subtle statistical technique known as Wombling (it was developed in 1951 by W. H. Womble), they came up with a map that showed sudden breaks in the otherwise smooth change in genetic constitution that usually goes with distance.

This smoothness comes, simply, from the fact that two people who live in adjacent villages are more likely to meet and marry than if they live at opposite ends of the country. The sudden breaks, highlighted by the Womble Factor, are exceptions to the rule; they are tied with language and also reflect geographical barriers – like the Channel.

Those who would seek to use such like this as an instrument of policy, though, should think again. That a difference of 20.7 per cent is no real excuse for the Hundred Years' War can be shown by the most telling

Henry Gee

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Checking an ice buoy: its signal can be tracked by ship or satellite

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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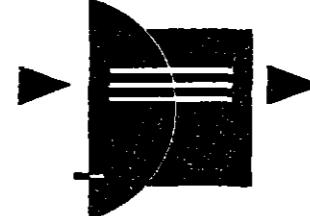
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SCIENCE REPORT

Marriage and the Womble Factor

Even though the Pas de Calais looks much the same as East Kent, hardly more than 20 miles away, the cultural and linguistic gulf is apparent even to a casual day-tripper.

Despite a thousand years of artistic and literary traditions on the subject, nobody has worked out by how much the character of the English differs from that of the French.

The scientific answer is 20.7 per cent. This measure of the difference in national character comes from a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by Robert Sokal, of the State University of New York, at Stony Brook, and Guido Buriani, of the University of Padua. They show how language barriers in western Europe coincide with sudden shifts in genetic constitution between populations. The researchers surveyed data on the distribution of 63 varieties of 19 genes, collected in 3,119 plants spread

exception to the rule: the people in the west of Iceland differ from their fellow Icelanders in the east by 69.2 per cent; even though, they all speak the same language.

The difference is historical: the Vikings who settled in the east of Iceland more than 1,000 years ago came directly from Scandinavia, but western Icelanders came via Celtic Britain, picking up Celtic genes on the way.

But even eastern and western Icelanders have spoken different languages once upon a time, they do so no longer; therefore, the fact that the genetic difference is detectable a millennium later is remarkable. This apart, no less than 15 of the 33 genetic barriers found by the researchers coincided with boundaries between language families: families of languages.

But some differences cannot easily be explained by the interposition of a physical barrier. For example, the German-speaking Austrians are genetically as well as linguistically different from the Fino-Ugric-speaking Hungarians – 24 per cent.

With few exceptions, then, just two kinds of barrier have influenced how the genetic map of Europe has been drawn: physical and linguistic. This, say the researchers, shows that the subtle differences in genetics between the peoples of Europe have nothing to do with adaptation to local environments. It reflects the diverse origins of populations and the legacy of migrations over thousands of years.

Henry Gee

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Strain of perfecting a pinta

A remarkable technique for producing designer membranes has been developed by scientists which may make the daily pinta taste as rustic and flavoursome as it is when fresh from the cow.

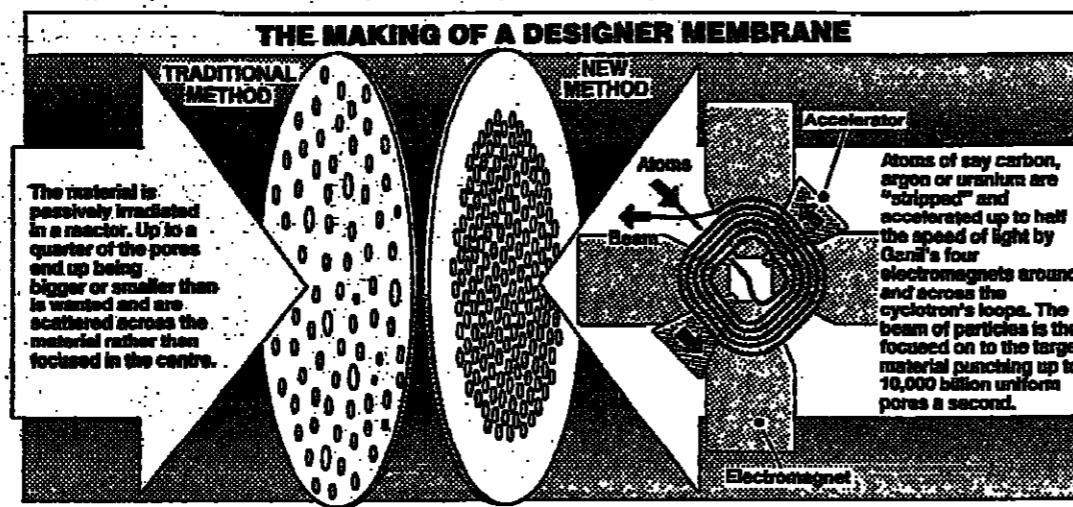
Aficionados of raw milk, including the Prince of Wales, argue that the heat treatment or the pasteurization process not only kills micro-organisms such as salmonella and E. coli, but also impairs taste.

The new method of membrane-making harnesses the microscopic hole-punching power of a cyclotron — a machine that can accelerate charged atoms into a fine, uniform beam. Its inventors claim that for the first time a reliable filter can be made, capable of sifting bugs from milk proteins and vitamins without heating.

Currently, membranes — ultra-fine materials thinner than a human hair and used for separating contaminants from liquids and air — are purely statistical affairs. A one-micron membrane, which has holes about the thickness of two human hairs, will have pores mainly one micron in size. But up to a quarter, however, may be slightly larger or smaller.

On one hand this leads to unwanted particles passing through larger than specified holes; on the other it means higher

Nick Nuttall reports on a new filtration technique which could make unpasteurized milk safe to drink straight from the cow



than required pressures are needed to force a liquid through the smaller holes. The implication of these flaws in modern membrane making are not confined to milk.

Ultra-filtration is becoming more important in the manufacture of microchips with smaller and smaller features. The difficulties of making ultra-pure water often leads to factory lines having to shut down because of a filter's

failure, and up to a third of the chips made being rejected because of flaws.

Pharmaceutical firms have similar problems, as do surgeons performing operations such as heart bypasses, where a patient's blood is filtered to avoid life-threatening clots returning to the circulatory system in the crucial days of recovery.

The push to develop artificial organs is also being hampered by

the shortfalls of modern membrane-making technology.

Researchers believe the new process will also have uses in the development of better food packaging — which could boost the shelf life of food by allowing it to breath more naturally — and in biotechnology and gas production.

The technique owes its genesis to work by French scientists at Ganil, the Grand National Accelerator for Heavy Ions, in Caen,

Normandy. It has now been turned into a commercial reality by researchers at the Utah-based Biopore in the United States, which bought the rights to the technology along with access to the cyclotron at Ganil from the French government.

The advances in membrane reliability and consistency hinge on the way the cyclotron produces beams of heavy ions, such as argon, which are identical in size. Membrane-makers now have to rely on the passive irradiation of plastic polycarbonate, which is much less controlled.

In addition, the intensity of the cyclotron's beam of heavy ions can, uniquely, be altered for treating relatively thick materials of up to 100 microns, John Ptak, Biopore's president, explains. It includes the ability to punch holes of between 0.01 and 4 microns in size in predetermined parts of a membrane.

Current passive methods create pores at the very edge of the material. When stretched, this often leads to microscopic tearing during the membrane's life — causing a filtration malfunction and, ultimately, a breakdown in a company's production line.

A chemical etching technique that uses ultraviolet light can also endow the extra-thin pores with even more selective filtration properties.

A storm in a laboratory jar

Physicists at the University of Utah attacked cold fusion in their own backyard last week, reporting they found no signs of nuclear fusion in the device their chemist colleagues used a year ago.

Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann rocked the scientific world when they announced at the University of Utah that they had created nuclear fusion in a laboratory jar at room-temperature. They said the process could be a source of cheap, clean energy.

In a study published last week in *Nature*, a 10-member team of Utah physicists and nuclear experts said it found "no evidence" of any known fusion reactions after monitoring four of Dr Pons's "cold fusion" devices for five weeks.

"During the time we were in his laboratory, there were no fusion processes occurring as we know them... There wasn't even a single 'peep,'" Michael Salamon, an associate physics professor who headed the investigation, said.

Even the unusual scenario in which the fusion by-product tritium is trapped in the palladium electrode should produce "strong and distinct" gamma rays, he said. Dr Pons and Fleischmann originally argued for fusion on the basis of their observations of what appeared to be excess gamma rays and neutrons. But Dr Salamon said that data did not hold up, leaving only claims of excess heat.

Drug trial on eggs



have rabies, it's too late. But it protects the others."

Early shuttle

The launch of the space shuttle Discovery, carrying the £900-million Hubble Space Telescope, has been brought forward by two days to next Tuesday. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said technicians needed to use little of the time allowed in the schedule for unforeseen contingencies. The telescope, which will orbit 380 miles above the Earth for the next 15 years, will be able to look seven times more deeply into space with greater clarity and to detect objects 50 times fainter than the best ground-based observatory. The telescope's installation into the orbiter was delayed for two days last week after midges invaded a payload preparation room at the launch pad. Engineers feared the bugs might damage the sensitive instrument.

Hacker tip-off

Three Australian youths arrested earlier this week in Melbourne after a tip-off from the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been charged with breaking into computer systems in the United States and damaging data in government computers. Detective Superintendent Ken Hunt, who headed the six-month investigation, said it was not unusual for Australian hackers to spend up to 16 hours a day on their personal computers or on international calls charged to the companies whose computers they entered. In 1988, the US Secret Service investigated hacking into the Citibank computer system by an Australian-based hacker codenamed Phoenix, who is believed to be one of those just arrested. Police think Phoenix may also be the same man who last month phoned *The New York Times* claiming to be the hacker breaking into the US Internet network used by the military, corporations and universities.

Rabies foxy

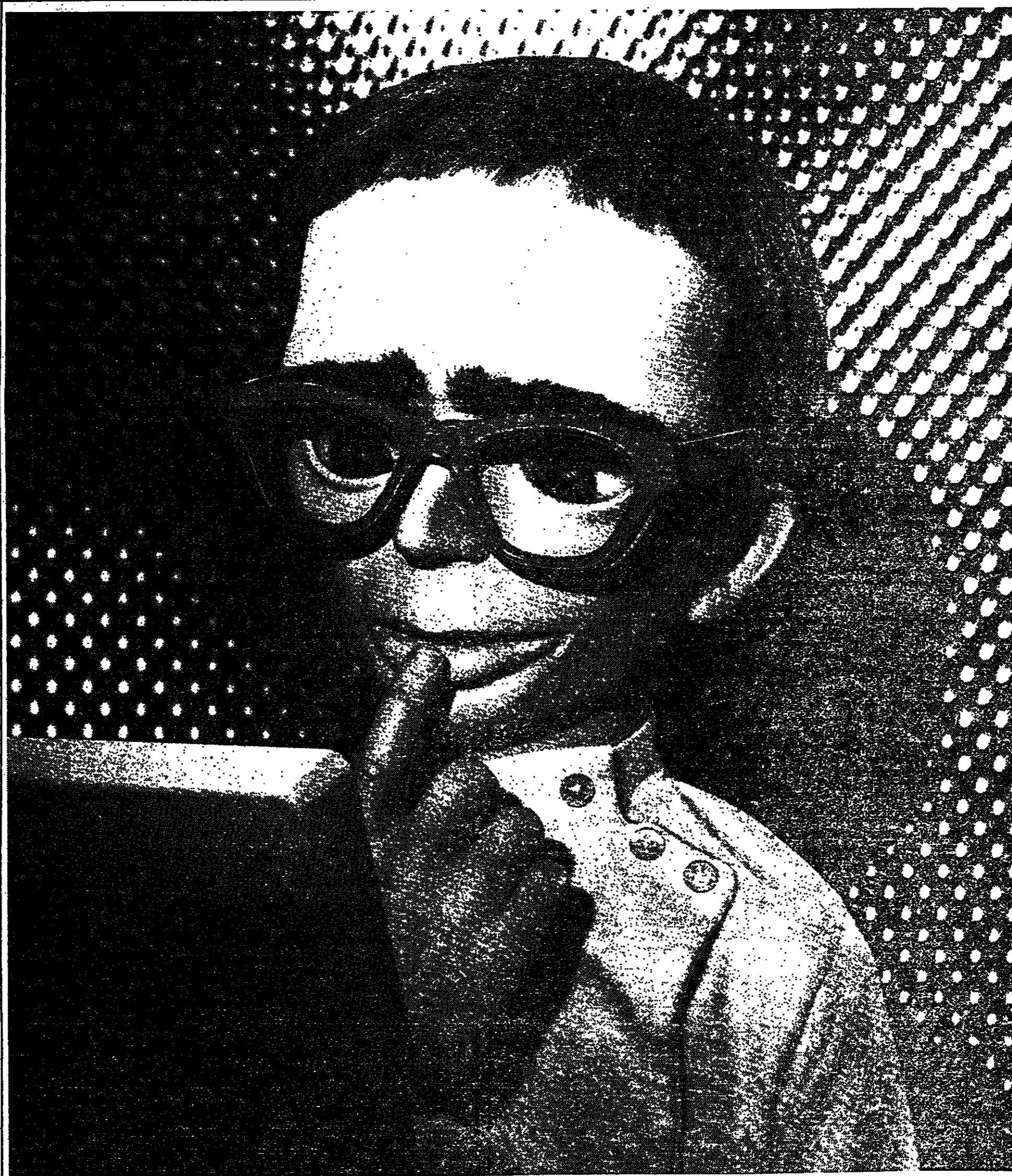


Packets of rabies vaccine were dropped by helicopter in France this week to begin a seven-month project aimed at reducing the disease among red foxes. Vaccination, both by air and ground, has cut deeply into epidemics among foxes in Switzerland, West Germany and The Netherlands, leaving France with the unwelcome reputation of being the rabies centre of Europe. Aerial experiments in 1989 achieved an 80 per cent immunization rate and this year, helicopters will drop almost 1 million vaccine doses, saturating 27,000 square miles of rabies-infested territory. The frozen packets are composed of a rabies-vaccine capsule planted in a ball of fox powder. After they thaw, the packets give off an odour foxes find hard to resist. "The fox thinks it's fish, he eats it, and voilà, he's vaccinated," Philippe Brie, a technician with the French Rabies Bureau, says. "If they

Ideas for all

A cooker that switches itself off when the milk boils over and a brick for irate viewers to throw at the television were two of the ideas shown off this week at the annual Inventions Fair in Geneva. More than 1,000 inventions were on show, including a gas stove with a built-in electronic device which shuts it off in three seconds, beeps when milk overflows and extinguishes the flame. The "tantrum TV brick", on offer from the London-based Scientific Applied Research, is made of foam and contains a microchip which transmits a message to a receiver plugged into a television set that turns off the offending item when the brick hits the screen. Also on show was an anti-snoring device from Asia called "ear peace". The device, the same size as a hearing aid, fits into the ear and emits a high-pitched sound of increasing intensity to disturb the snorer until he changes his breathing pattern — without waking.

Matthew May

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386SX processor. But although big in capacity, the 386 laptop is impressively small in size.

Weighing in at a very slender 14.5 lbs it's particularly handy should your work involve missions overseas.

Other features you'll appreciate are its 3 hour battery life, a high clarity VGA screen, and an AT keyboard with 12 function keys.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Patching up your troubles

Doctors may soon be prescribing "magic bullets", Ann Kent reports

Most of us are vague about how drugs work, but we all think we know how to take them. Medicines are either swallowed, or, when quick results are needed, taken as an injection. Now all that is changing.

According to Professor Brian Barry, of the University of Bradford, taking traditional pills and tablets is "like flooding a skyscraper to extinguish a waste-bin fire on the top floor". It works, but it is excessive and can be dangerous. New drug-delivery methods concentrate on giving a constant, low dose, rather than the sudden "high" which follows when a traditional drug is swallowed or injected.

These controlled-release drugs will eventually transform the quality of life experienced by asthmatics, arthritics and those with heart disease.

Work is under way to develop a diabetes treatment which will respond to individual blood-sugar levels. Most of these methods are just new ways of delivering established drugs into the body at a carefully controlled rate.

A contraceptive vaginal ring could be marketed in the next 12 to 18 months. It consists of a polymer ring containing the hormone commonly used in the contraceptive pill, levonorgestrel. The ring provides contraceptive protection for three months, using 30 per cent less hormone than low-dose pills.

Because hormones are proteins, part of their effect is lost when they are carried from the intestines to the liver. However, a vaginally delivered drug does not reach the liver until much later — after it has had a chance to work.

The Institute of Psychiatry, London, is testing nicotine skin patches and nasal sprays on people who wish to give up smoking.

Each morning, the smoker applies a new patch, and as he or she become less dependent, the nicotine dose is reduced. The nasal sprays are used by patients whenever they feel the need for a cigarette, and can be used up to 80 times a day.

However, according to Gay Sutherland, senior clinical psychologist at the institute, most people use the spray much less frequently. With both treatments, group therapy is also provided.

"Most patients find the spray rather aversive to start with, with some local irritation in the nose. They usually gain tolerance after a few days," Ms Sutherland says.

"The sprays are intended to be used for three months. Some people manage to give up smoking using



the spray before that time, while a small group have been allowed to continue for up to year where there was a serious risk that they would otherwise resume smoking."

A travel-sickness remedy, Scopod TTS, from Ciba-Geigy, is also in the form of a patch. It is stuck behind the ear — where the skin is thin — five hours before travelling, and lasts for up to 72 hours. A prescription is needed.

The same company also produces a daily patch, Transderm-Nitro, which is worn by angina patients to prevent further attacks, and a natural oestrogen patch, which is changed every three to four days and used for menopause symptoms (hormone-replacement therapy).

All drugs pass from the intestine, via the blood, into the liver. In many cases, enzymes in the liver will digest most of the treatment before it has a chance to work. This means either that the drug cannot be given as a tablet, or undetectably

high doses need to be taken.

The advantage of passing a drug through the skin — transdermal therapy — is that it does not enter the liver until much later, after it has had a chance to work. Not all diseases can be cured by patches. The skin is our natural barrier against infection and also acts as a barrier to many drugs.

Prof Barry, whose team is working on new drug-delivery methods,

says: "Transdermal therapy got a poor image after ridiculous claims were made in the mid-Eighties, when it was said that 70 per cent of all drugs would be taken through the skin."

"In fact, you need powerful drugs with molecules small enough to pass through the skin, combined with a good reason why the treatment cannot be taken by mouth before you consider transdermal drugs. Hormones are good candidates because otherwise they tend to be broken down in the liver.

High doses need to be taken.

"It is likely that new patches will be developed which include pain-killers, and male hormone for men with fertility problems. Skin patches for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's (senile dementia) are also being considered, although new drugs will need to be developed to put into the patches, and that could take years.

"One problem which is often overlooked is that some of these drugs produce quite a severe reaction on the patient's skin, and you can't predict in advance who these patients will be.

"The positioning of the patches tends to be psychological rather than logical — below the bikini line for hormone replacement, near the heart for angina."

Prof Barry's team is working on a slow-release version of two anti-arthritis drugs, ibuprofen and naproxen, which are in the form of tiny pellets, coated with a polymer

film which slowly absorbs water once it reaches the gut.

The water gets through to the drug, which dissolves and is slowly released through the coating. Each pellet releases the treatment at a different time, according to the structure and thickness of the outer layer of polymer.

Some controlled-release products are already on the market, including Volmax for asthma and the Continus system for treating moderate to severe pain, angina, asthma, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies. However, the race is on to improve on the methods of delivery.

The Ocusert is a tiny device smaller than a contact lens which is inserted just under the eyelid and can gradually release a week's supply of eye drops for glaucoma.

Neil Graham, professor of pure and applied chemistry at the University of Strathclyde, expects to see the advent of drugs which are sensitive to the glucose levels in a diabetic's bloodstream and which will release insulin accordingly.

The problem with insulin and with all the products from the biotechnology revolution is that they can easily be digested before they have a chance to work. Putting them in a polymer carrier is one way of getting around the problem."

Some patients with prostate cancer are now given a 28-day drug implant as an alternative to daily injections or surgery.

The drug Zoladex is incorporated in a polymer carrier the size of a large grain of rice, and injected just under the skin of the abdomen. The carrier is gradually broken down by the body as the drug, an anti-hormone, is slowly released.

Even the ultimate of the hi-tech treatments — the "magic bullet" — can be improved by attachment to a polymer. The magic bullet consists of a laboratory-grown antibody armed with a drug treatment which will latch on to a cancer cell.

Prof Graham explains: "If you use a water-soluble polymer to carry the magic bullet, you can load the antibody with much more of the drug. This means you are increasing the dose while reducing harmful effects on other parts of the body."

He says the most exciting development to come will be pulsed-system delivery methods, which release their drugs at pre-set times. This would be particularly useful for the forgetful, or those who need continuous drug therapy while they sleep. But at present, the pulsed systems are a closely guarded secret.

JOBSITE

The case of the missing staff

Well-paid jobs abound for those with the latest software-engineering skills

The demand for information technology staff with experience of the latest generation of software engineering techniques is outstripping supply.

Average rates of more than £30,000 a year are being paid to freelance staff with these skills while independent consultants can command fees of up to £120,000. Salaries for permanent positions are 20 per cent higher than average and can go up to £60,000 for the consultant.

Companies are turning to the latest generation of computer-aided software engineering (CASE) products to improve the quality and reduce the cost of developing software applications. But the technology is complex and requires a different development methodology.

"We came from a traditional development background like thousands of other users, and we don't have all the skills," says one IT manager using the technology for the first time.

Computer-services companies are rushing to support these users, but are also finding it difficult to recruit staff.

Many software houses and manufacturers are also developing CASE products and are looking to advise and train users in these techniques. "There has been a steady rise in demand from companies over the past three years. Staff with CASE skills are very much at a premium at present," Adam Gardner, recruitment consultant for the Computer People agency (01-836 8411), says.

Mr Gardner says contract rates of between £1,000 and £1,400 a week are available for analysts specializing in CASE, but this can go to £2500 to £2600 a day for those "at strategy level", who can advise companies on implementation.

"Those wanting to jump on the CASE bandwagon will find it difficult to find training," says David Fairhain, managing director of James Martin Associates (0784 245058). He reports that an advertisement for CASE staff brought 750 responses, of which four were selected by his firm.

"Those with CASE experience are in a commanding position in career terms and will be for some time to come. And there is a massive requirement for training and developing CASE skills in the UK," Mr Fairhain says.

The best CASE staff are those straight out of university and not fixed on the old ways, he says.

Leslie Tilley

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PARKINSON'S DISEASE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
by Malcolm Brown

Multi-million-pound fight on all fronts

Life has improved for Britain's 100,000 Parkinson's victims, who now have their own help group

Parkinson's Disease, which afflicts more than 100,000 people in Britain today, has been known since biblical times and was definitively described more than 170 years ago by the eponymous surgeon-apothecary, James Parkinson.

Yet the Parkinson's Disease Society (PDS), which helps Parkinson's sufferers with information on the condition and by raising funds for research projects, is only 21 years old.

The society began in an almost haphazard fashion when in the late 1960's Mari Jenkins, a successful businesswoman, found that one of her elder sisters, Sarah, had developed Parkinson's Disease.

Miss Jenkins was astonished to discover there was no society for Parkinsonian patients and their families, so she set one up.

Two decades later the society has about 40,000 members, raises about £2 million a year, and has 160 branches. Another 40 branches are being established. One of the prime concerns of the society, says Anthony Kilmister, its executive director, is providing accurate information and advice for sufferers. The prognosis for patients is vastly improved

Parkinson's Disease does not nowadays normally shorten their lives — but being told that they have Parkinson's can still knock patients for six and often leave them unable to take in what the doctor is saying.

Mr Kilmister says: "I doubt if they would hear the rest of what the doctor says after hearing those magic words. They go home and think, 'My God, am I going to die from it? What about my children?'

Information in layman's language can quickly dispel those fears. "It enables people to say, 'I'm not going to die

'We cannot allow vital research to go by default for want of funding'



Playing a part: Professor Jenner has a blood test himself in the interests of research.

'A cure in the next 10 years'

Scientists doing research into the disease are optimistic now that so many projects are increasing the knowledge of the neurologists

There is no cure for Parkinson's Disease yet, but scientists believe that there could be within five or 10 years. Their optimism is based on important advances in the understanding of the possible causes of the disease and in innovative treatments such as brain cell transplantation, which researchers hope may effectively give sufferers' brains a new lease of life.

No one factor has yet been isolated as the (or even a) definitive cause of Parkinson's, but there are a number of strong candidates.

Professor Peter Jenner, head of the pharmacology group in the biomedical sciences division of King's College, London, who is a leading researcher in the field, suggests three possibilities.

FIRST, he says, it may be something to do with the ageing of the nervous system. The only factor that appears clearly to influence the disease is advancing age.

Most people who develop Parkinson's tend to be over 40 and the chances of contracting it increase with age.

"There is a gradual decline in the number of cells in your brain with age," Professor Jenner says. "One of the hypotheses put forward is that Parkinson's may be an acceleration of this ageing

process such that you get down to a critical number below which you develop the symptoms earlier than you would do by the natural process."

It is an interesting idea, Professor Jenner says, but there is not, in reality, a lot of evidence for it.

SECOND, there is the so-called toxic insult hypothesis.

This suggests that at some time in our life, probably even in the womb, an environmental toxin or some other

form of poison gets into the brain and kills off dopamine neurones. These are the nerve

cells that contain dopamine, the chemical messenger that carries electrical messages from one cell to the next.

Apparently strong evidence for the toxic insult theory came to light dramatically a few years ago when an American neurologist, Bill Langston, spotted a group of drug addicts who suddenly developed Parkinsonian symptoms.

He found that they had all taken a derivative of peptidene, which had been contaminated with another substance, MPTP.

"We now know," Professor

Jenner says, "that administration of MPTP leads to a destruction of dopamine cells in the brain. In other words, it mimics the pathology of Parkinson's Disease and it also produces the clinical

into the mitochondria and act into a specific place in the energy chain, then the dopamine cells will die.

Professor Jenner says that studies on post-mortem brains have shown that in the

more intriguing one," he says, "is that once you implant these foetal cells in the brain they start to send out nerve fibres, which then replace the patient's own fibres that have died off."

"They 'rewire' the brain so that you have the same conduction going on as would occur in a normal person."

The transplant method has already been shown to work experimentally, and researchers are starting to implant foetal cells into patients with Parkinson's Disease.

"Because of this doctors prefer to withhold levodopa therapy in patients with early Parkinson's until the severity of the disability becomes marked."

Now there may be a way to delay the need for treatment even longer. A clinical trial in the United States has shown that administration of a substance called deprenyl seems to have a clear delaying effect, so levodopa is not needed so soon.

symptoms of Parkinson's Disease."

The flaw in the suggestion that MPTP might be directly involved in Parkinsonism is that the chemical is not widespread in the environment.

Most people would never be exposed to it. So researchers have instead started looking for substances that are chemically related to MPTP.

"It's a simple molecule," Professor Jenner says. "It has got a simple structure and if you look at many other molecules that occur naturally or in our environment that structure is contained within many of those molecules. So it is possible that there is a whole family of toxins of similar structure out there somewhere."

Another problem with the toxic insult hypothesis is that if there was a toxin in the environment you might expect pockets of Parkinson's Disease in the population where the toxin was present in particularly high concentrations. But in practice you do not get epidemics of Parkinson's Disease.

"So we do not think it's environment alone," Professor Jenner says. "It may be that there is also some component of genetic susceptibility to toxins of that kind. There is evidence that people with Parkinson's Disease are less able to break down some toxins that could come into the body."

THIRD, there is a particularly intriguing line of research suggesting that MPTP may be telling us so much about itself or similar chemicals but about precisely why the brain cells are vulnerable to insults.

"A lot of time has been spent looking at how MPTP works," Professor Jenner says, "and we now know that it's not toxic itself, but it is metabolized to another substance, which we call MPP+, and that substance is taken up by mitochondria, which are the power houses of the cells, the energy suppliers of the cells. It poisons the mitochondria."

What that tells the scientists is that if something can get

into the mitochondria and act

on a specific place in the energy

chain, then the dopamine cells

will die.

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already been shown to work

experimentally, and research

ers are starting to implant

foetal cells into patients with

Parkinson's Disease.

"The difficulty has been," Professor Jenner says, "that many of the studies that have been undertaken to date have been

relatively uncontrolled."

Patients' stories in the Press

suggesting amazing cures occur

ing days or weeks after trans

plant should be taken with a very large pinch of salt,

Professor Jenner thinks.

Experimental studies show

that any real improvement

would probably take at least

six months before it was

observable.

"A lot of studies have

confused the issue," he says.

"A lot of patients' hopes

have been raised, prematurely

in my view."

But with that strong caveat

Professor Jenner points to

impressive work being done

in Sweden by Dr Ole Lindvall at

the University Hospital,

Lund. One of Dr Lindvall's

patients — a recipient of foetal

Parkinson's Disease

Ever since James Parkinson first described the 'shaking palsy' which now bears his name, medical science has sought ways to combat this distressing and disabling condition.

A chemical imbalance

The discovery that there is a chemical imbalance in a specific part of the brain was an important first step towards developing a treatment. Restoring the balance has not proved to be a straightforward process. The chemical which is lacking, dopamine, cannot pass into the brain easily when given by mouth.

Can be helped

At Merck Sharp & Dohme, in the 1960s, scientists found they could overcome this problem by giving a natural precursor of dopamine, which crosses readily into the brain where it is converted to dopamine. When combined with a special inhibitor substance its effectiveness is markedly improved, as more precursor can enter the brain before it is destroyed by the body's own enzymes.

Thanks to MSD

MSD has been helping sufferers from Parkinson's Disease for over 15 years, but the effort to improve the outlook for sufferers still further, goes on.

Research continues

MSD is a subsidiary of Merck & Co. Inc., the largest and most successful research based pharmaceutical company in the world. The company philosophy is one of innovation through research and this approach is being carried through in the research effort devoted to Parkinson's Disease.

To find a cure

MSD has concentrated its worldwide research into diseases of the brain and nervous system at its Neuroscience Research Centre here in the UK. MSD scientists are working towards a better understanding of Parkinson's Disease and its causes. The goal of this research is to provide relief for sufferers and ultimately to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease.



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David Miller examines the issue of lucrative television rights which is in danger of causing a split in the Olympic movement

Feathers fly over the Games' golden goose

Atlanta
The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) is in a cleft stick. Refusal to agree to financial terms set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for all candidate cities by an April 15 deadline will disqualify Atlanta's bid to host the Games of 1996.

At the heart of the dispute — so far courteously discussed in discreet committee rooms — is an issue which could split the Olympic movement and kill the goose that lays the Olympic golden egg: the American television rights. The USOC believes it should receive more than the 10 per cent to which it agreed between the Games of Los Angeles and Seoul; already worth a massive \$40 million from NBC's \$400 million deal with Barcelona for 1992.

Richard Pound, a Montreal lawyer and IOC member who

negotiates for the IOC, says: "The problem is defuse, but growing."

It is expected that USOC will sign the undertaking, within the existing Charter, by April 15 to protect Atlanta, but that the dispute will develop after September's vote in Tokyo, whichever city wins. Moreover, there is real uncertainty, even among the main television networks, about the whole future of sport's television coverage, especially since the recent large, and some think absurd, \$3.6 billion deal by networks and cable with the National Football League (NFL) for four years.

There is a fundamental moral issue in the USOC/IOC argument: to whom does the advertising revenue arising from the screening of the Games belong? The IOC reasons that television purchases the rights, that the money legitimately belongs to the Olympic

movement, and that a 10 per cent

movement, in a nationalistic stance, believes the rights for "American" money, and there is fear in Olympic circles that if USOC makes sufficient fuss, the US Congress may seek to impose a tariff restricting the "export" of the rights fee. Pound believes the view is illegally based. "At the moment people are bouncing off the wall trying to find a solution," Pound says.

Leading the USOC nationalism is John Krimsky, a hard-nosed fund raiser. Robert Helmick, the USOC president, and recently elected to the IOC executive board, supports Krimsky's view, but is careful that his opinion does not surface too forcefully because he sees himself — though many others do at present — as a potential successor to Juan Anto-

nio Samaranch as president of IOC. Anti-Americanism is a latent factor in many Olympic decisions.

William Payne, the president of the Atlanta committee, who is caught in the crossfire, has done much to promote, by his amiable manner, the first bid from the American south, which represents, as he rightly says, a population several times bigger than all the other candidate cities, and bigger even than their countries. Payne's low-key charm and innocence has made Atlanta's wealth seem appealing rather than aggressive.

"I don't think USOC has a right to tell the IOC what to do," Payne says, "but neither does the IOC have the right to treat USOC just like any other national Olympic committee. What I do know is that if the Olympic Games become just another dollar battle, we won't see

any more the altruistic involvement of men like Andrew Young and Charlie Battle (Atlanta's former mayor and Payne's vice-president, respectively), like Bob Scott, of Manchester, and Paul Henderson, of Toronto, men who believe in the intrinsic virtue of bringing an Olympic Games to their city. The Games do belong to the IOC, but on trust."

In an attempted pre-emptive move, which will be ignored, USOC has offered to manage the worldwide television rights for a payment to the IOC of \$500 million.

It is possible that Manchester's allowance in their planned budget for 1996 of \$400 million for American rights is too high; in spite of the recent NFL deal, there is a conviction that television sports interest will continue to fall.

Furthermore, with the public now

so conditioned to live coverage, nobody knows how the American audience will react in 1992 to the first Olympic coverage on video recording — because of the time difference with Europe — since the Munich Games of 1972 (Moscow having been a wipe out).

The speed of the shift towards cable and pay-per-view cannot be calculated, but will be substantial in the United States by 1996.

Atlanta has calculated its figure, even in prime time schedule, on a network fee of only \$350 million.

It is possible that Manchester's systems in the United States, and "zap-TV" — instant channel switching by remote control — means that no viewer is any longer tied in to one channel by a special event he/she wants to view.

The huge networks' payments to NFL have been made because

no network can afford to be seen to be left out. CBS, \$1.1 billion; ABC, \$900 million; NBC, \$750 million; and two main cable stations, ESPN and Turner's TBS, \$450 million each. Yet NBC lost money on their \$300 million deal for Seoul (made good by free time to advertisers in lieu of low ratings) and NBC has gambled with the \$400 million Barcelona deal on expected re-sale to pay-per-view cable.

The future of Olympic television coverage also depends on Samaranch's successor, will be, or she, like Samaranch, believe in the necessity of mass television coverage, rather than pay-per-view should that be more rewarding from a financial point of view. To that the inspiration of the Games is accessible to every schoolchild who cannot afford private channels?

YACHTING

New Zealanders in personal battle at head of the fleet

By Malcolm McKeag

THOSE apparently uncatchable ketches, Fisher & Paykel and Steinlager 2, continued to draw inexorably away from their pursuing sloops yesterday as the van of the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet tramped steadily past the curving chain of islands that fringes the Caribbean sea, and headed for Dalton.

The bad news for the British is that Pierre Fehlmann, further south and still more firmly in the trade wind belt, is for the moment managing to keep pace with the ketches — he lost only two miles to them yesterday — and is slowly closing on Smith. At noon yesterday, Merit was within 18 miles of Rothmans.

Merit's gain may be illusory. As the leaders move north they sail into bands of lighter winds, which permits those astern apparently to catch-up; but then they too will be in the light winds.

Although the distances between the boats decreases, the time interval stays constant because each is sailing a slower speed. This happened yesterday even to Steinlager, but by evening Blake was

again in firm breeze and picking up speed.

One ketch which is not fulfilling the design predictions is the Swedish yacht, The Card. Despite having the mizzen mast she lost at the start of the fourth leg replaced in Punta, before the start of this fifth leg, The Card can still make no impression on the single-masted Satsumo, British Defender.

Yesterday she was 46 miles adrift of the services crew — exactly the deficit of the day before. Rigorous efforts were made in Punta by Colin Watkins and his crew to lighten Defender for this leg and these, combined with crew changes and a further climb up the learning curve, have so far paid handsome dividends. Defender is a consistent fifth, her best performance in the race by date to date.

● Tracy Edwards's British yacht, Maiden, remains in fourth place, nine miles behind the West German entry, Schleswig von Bremen (Barry Pickthall writes). In a report to *The Times* yesterday, Edwards said that they had been slowed by further problems with their boom.

A four-inch crack has developed close to the vang terminal, a problem experienced with most of the Sparcraft boats in this race," she said. "We've watched the crack lengthen every day, but hope to have put a stop to it now by bolting an alloy plate over the damage. Dawn Riley has done a splendid job with the up-and-down.

Next winter, the selected skipper, prospective crews and their boats will be put through their paces from a base in the Mall of Kintyre, where conditions, Blyth says, are very similar to Cape Horn.

It is important for all the crews that they are fully trained to meet the tough challenge of beating round Cape Horn into the teeth of the Roaring Forties. We have a comprehensive training programme scheduled for all crews starting later this year to ensure that each knows exactly what they are letting themselves in for — and can cope with the challenge ahead of them."

Prospective skippers should apply directly to Blyth, The British Steel Challenge, Innance House, 12 London Road, Sheet, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4BE.

Compiled from British Telecom data

CHAY Blyth yesterday launched a search for budding Lawrie Smiths to skipper 12 identical 67-foot round the world race cutters, presently under construction for the 1992 British Steel Challenge.

The former circumnavigator said: "We are looking for keen yachtsmen and women with deep-sea racing experience to lead the 12 crews who have already signed up for the seven-month voyage. They must be high achievers, aged between 28 and 50, and have, as a minimum, an RYA Yachtmaster's Offshore certificate."

Crews placed in the race, which steers the same course against the prevailing winds and currents that Blyth pioneered singlehanded 19 years ago, have been so heavily oversubscribed that the programme has been increased to include two extra yachts, and more may yet be built.

Each prospective skipper will be interviewed by Blyth before undertaking a seven-day trial with him aboard British Steel II,

Three-boat teams, using two

boats, will be

each other in a competition which might be described as six-handed match racing. As in most sports, the finer points emerge only when the two sides are evenly matched — in this case in speed.

Then, tactics worthy of chess come into play. Second place, not first, is crucial. It can sometimes pay for a boat leading the race to surrender that position, if by doing so it succeeds in slowing the most dangerous opponent, allowing

one, or two, team colleagues to overtake. Second, third and fifth, for example, produce a better team score than first, fourth and last.

Good team racers have such combinations programmed in before they go afloat. As befits a university challenge, the overall scoring is no less complicated than the chess.

The 168 eight leagues in which each team races the other twice to provide, by tomorrow, eight quarter-finalists in both men's and women's divisions.

Moreover, the staff includes a

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Greg Norman, the pre-tournament favourite, says his game is in perfect shape as he seeks to win an overdue Masters title

Back-to-back triumph beckons Faldo

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Augusta, Georgia

THE enticing prospect of emulating the feat of Jack Nicklaus 24 years ago, by becoming only the second player to successfully defend the Masters title, will be one beckoning Nick Faldo as he sets out on his first round at Augusta National today.

Faldo will feel under no undue pressure because he is well aware that history is against him. "No one is leaning on me," he said yesterday. "I feel fine, my game is fine and I just want to play as well as I can."

If anyone interprets this as an attempt by Faldo to divert attention elsewhere, nothing would be further from the truth. He thrives on a challenge and is less likely to be deflected from his aims by cruel twists of fate than any other player in the game at the present time.

Faldo acknowledges that it was not until last year, when he played in the event for the sixth time, that he felt he knew how best to play the course in order to win. The record books show that, like Faldo, Severiano Ballesteros, Ben Crenshaw, Raymond Floyd, Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson, among others, also needed to make several attempts on the first major championship of the golfing year, before they felt comfortable.

Indeed, Fuzzy Zoeller is the only player to have won at the first time of asking, which is why Robert Gamez, an extraordinary talent who has chalked up two wins already in his first season as a professional, and Ronan Rafferty face especially daunting examinations.

What makes Augusta such a severe test for even the most battle-hardened competitor is not only the pressures involved but also the way conditions can fluctuate, as the wind swirls and gusts capriciously through the towering Georgia pines.

This is truly an arena for the demigods of the game and one



The full draw

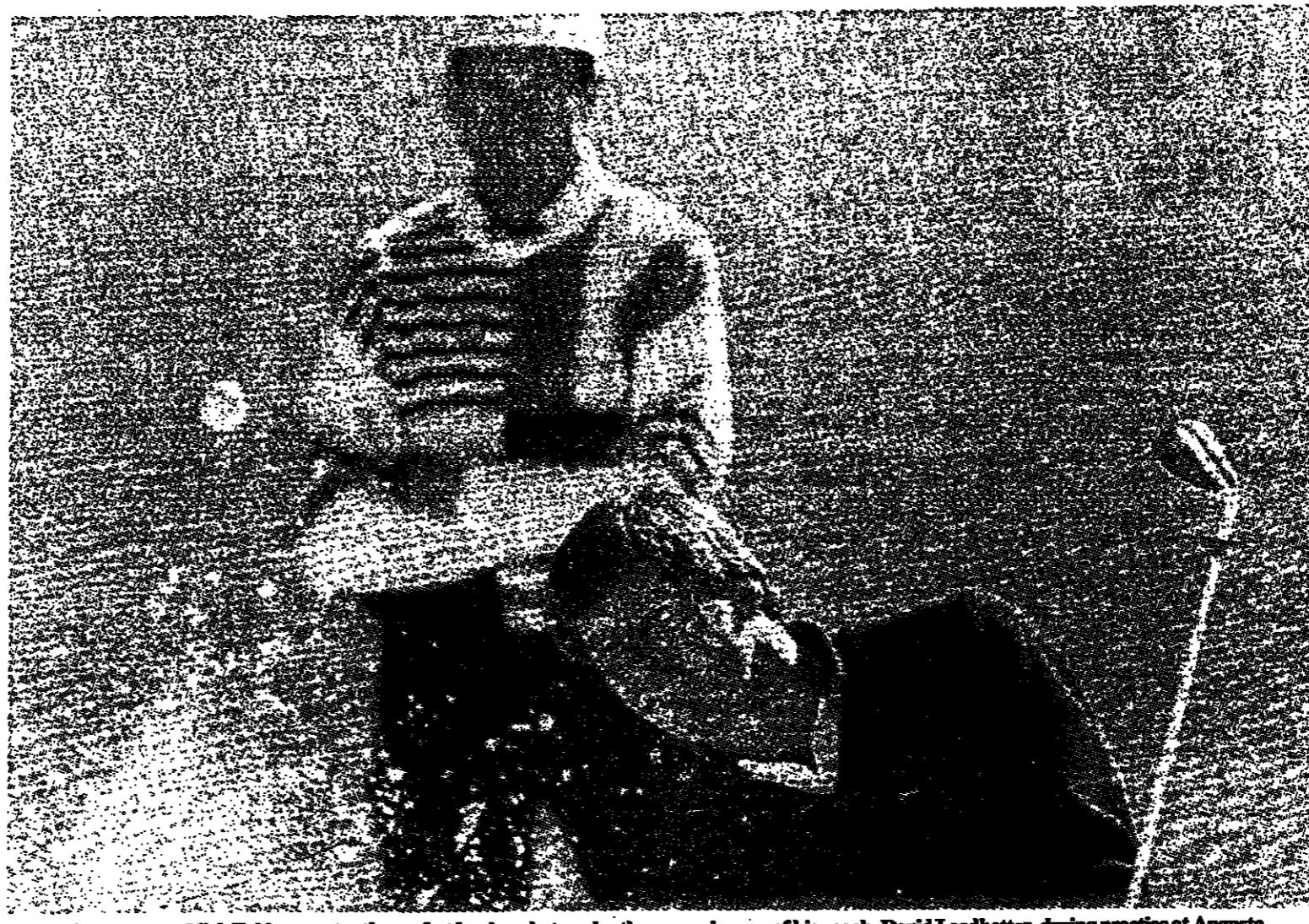
(US unless stated)

12.30: G Samson and S Sned
12.45: T Byrum and A Bean
12.55: G Archer and T Hobby
13.05: H Green and J Huston
13.15: B Casper and D Green
13.25: D Hickey and C Byrum
13.35: P Floyd and J Lyle (SA)
13.45: T Purtell and B Clegg
13.45: T Watson and I Baker-Finch
13.55: A North and J Tway
14.05: L Nelson and J Matthey
14.15: S Hoch and R Rafferty (GB)
14.25: T Simpson and T Schatz
14.35: J Stirmann and T Ammari (IL)
14.37: S Jones and K Green
14.45: A Palmer and J Taylor
14.55: P Jacobsen and M McDowell
15.05: L Goss and J Goss (GB)
15.05: M O'Meara and G McDowell
15.15: F Zoeller and P Senior (Aus)
15.25: G Brown and C Perry
15.35: C Strange and T Dodd (GB)
15.45: L Wadkins and C Beck
15.55: L Mize and W Grady
16.05: B Langer (W) and T Kite
16.15: C Donald and J Forman
16.25: J Sorenson and W Grady
16.35: P Stewart and I Woosnam (GB)
16.55: H Sutton and R Gamez
16.45: B Gleeson and L Thompson
17.05: C Stadler and N Ozaki (Japan)
17.05: N Faldo (GB) and C Patten
17.05: B Crenshaw and J-M Olazabal (Sp)
17.15: M Lye and D Rummel
17.25: C Caldeira and G Norman (Aus)
17.45: C Patten (SA) and D Fazio
17.55: C Coody and M Ozaki (Japan)
18.05: D Hamm and S Simpson
18.25: M Hubert and M Field
18.35: T Purtell, B Britton and T Bills
* Denotes amateur

in which lesser mortals rarely triumph. Indeed, when one of them did so, in the person of Larry Mize in 1987, there was more than a suspicion of a helping hand from above when he chipped in from 120 feet to beat Greg Norman at the second hole of the play-off.

Norman is unquestionably one of the demigods, although his faith in natural justice has been tested at Augusta more times than he cares to remember. Even so, the Australian enters the tournament both at the head of the Sony world rankings and as the 8-1 favourite.

His supporters will be re-



Sand master: Nick Faldo executes the perfect bunker shot, under the approving eye of his coach, David Leadbetter, during practice at Augusta

lieved to hear that Norman, making his tenth attempt to win the Masters, has at no time felt more in control of his game. "My only problem right now is that I have nothing to work on because, quite honestly, I feel that every part of my game is perfect," he said.

The expression of such confidence might be said to be tempting fate, although Norman tends to flourish when in such ebullient mood. One who believes Norman's time has come at last, Tom Weiskopf, said: "I think Greg will leave them all for dead this week."

But how ironic it would be if

Norman were to be denied by a fellow-countryman, for the Australian challenge is a weighty one, with Ian Baker-Finch, Wayne Grady, Craig Parry and Peter Senior also in the field. A victory by any one of them would provide a further boost for the European Tour on which all served their apprenticeship.

Faldo, however, is convinced that a European player will win again. If he fails himself, then, he says, he would be especially thrilled to help either José-Maria Olazabal or Ian Woosnam into the green jacket come Sunday evening. Olazabal has not been playing well recently, but Woosnam is in cracking form.

"My game is very close now to what it was in 1987 when I played my best golf and won more than £1 million," he said.

Twelve months ago it was Sandy Lyle, as the 1988 Masters champion, who put the green jacket on Faldo's shoulders. Since then, little has gone right for Lyle, although at Houston last week-

end there were signs that, at long last, he was beginning to return to form.

Lyle has found it strangely difficult to motivate himself. Norman, in calling him "sleepy Sandy" possibly hit the nail on the head. "Sometimes he plays well but at other times he just goes to sleep," he said.

Lyle might profitably consider a line of Robert Graves: "Stirring suddenly from long hibernation I knew myself once more a poet."

If Lyle wishes to know once more himself a golfer, what finer opportunity could present itself?

Ballesteros has a liking for Lyle and he has been giving him some guidance on the practice range. But when Ballesteros steps onto the first tee today, alongside Fred Couples, he will have no thoughts but his putter.

Strange, who won the US Open in 1988 and 1989, let slip a three-stroke lead in the Masters in 1985. "I learned then that when you blow a major championship you feel like hell for a month," Strange said. "No one can know how you feel and I can tell you the disappointment stays with you forever."

"I would love to come down

those last nine holes again

to win here for the third time but will need to hold himself in

check because, as he points out, he is often his worst enemy because of impatience.

"I'm too hasty, too often, to play the aggressive shot," Ballesteros said.

Couples, by contrast, is always cool, calm and collected. He is also a very good golfer and if an American is to come through this week, then he could be the one, despite the strong case which can also be made for Curtis Strange and the redoubtable Tom Watson, who, in 13 years, has finished outside of the top 14 only once.

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The Spaniard knows that to

win here for the third time he will need to hold himself in

the best shape I've ever seen and the greens are slicker than a baby's bottom."

The greens, as usual, are the main talking point among the players. The game within the game — putting — won the play-off for Faldo 12 months ago when he holed from 25 feet at the second extra hole, after having seen Scott Hoch fail from two feet at the first.

"I think the greens could get as quick as we have ever seen them," Faldo said. "That said it only comes down to a putting competition if you drive the ball well and hit your irons into the right places. The key then is to accept the chances you make for yourself."

Faldo did that last year with his final round of 65. His preparations for this year's event have been identical to those he followed in 1989, even down to eating the same sort of food. If they prove as successful, he will be left with only one major problem — how to help himself into a green jacket.

Card of the course															
Hole	Yds	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	Hole	Yds	Par	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
1	400	4	4	4	4	6	3	17	10	485	4	4	4	4	16
2	555	5	4	5	4	4	4	17	11	455	4	4	4	4	16
3	355	4	4	4	4	4	4	16	12	455	4	4	4	4	16
4	275	3	3	2	2	2	10	13	155	3	3	3	3	3	15
5	435	4	4	4	4	3	4	15	14	405	4	4	4	4	15
6	180	3	3	2	3	3	3	11	15	500	5	3	3	4	20
7	360	4	3	3	4	3	3	15	16	170	3	3	4	4	13
8	535	5	5	5	5	5	20	17	400	4	4	4	4	4	16
9	435	4	4	4	4	5	4	17	18	405	4	4	4	4	16
Out	3,465	36	34	34	34	32	138	In	3,440	36	34	39	39	32	145
								Total	6,905	72	68	73	77	65	283

Card of the course

Hole Yds Par Hole Yds Par

1 383 4 10 424 4

2 407 4 11 480 3

3 637 5 12 224 3

4 194 3 13 144 3

5 334 3 14 171 3

6 384 4 15 533 5

7 549 5 16 403 4

8 237 3 17 445 4

9 470 4 18 363 4

Out 3,508 36 In 3,422 36

Total par 6,905 Par 72

Eton defend without Critchley

By John Hemmey

THE England cricket tour of the West Indies has cast a long shadow. It reaches as far as Deal, in Kent, where the Royal Cinque Ports golf club, with some help from Royal St George's nearby, will again present the Halford Hewitt Old Boys tournament from today until Sunday.

For the holders, are to face Rudiell, the afternoon; a Reddy shorn of the innumerable services of Ted Dexter while he wears his other sporting hat. Whether Eton's prospects have thereby been enhanced, especially with their principal challengers, on paper, in the other half of the draw, remains to be seen.

Dexter's absence could possibly have the reverse effect. His personality is so strong that your average Halford Hewitt player can be reduced to a shivering wreck in his company. On the other hand, the opposing pair

can be inspired to exceptional deeds of derring-do by the thought of bringing the great man down.

That, and a tendency for

Halford Hewitt holders to be

vulnerable to a sucker punch in the first round, should give Eton food for anxious thought. They are also deprived of a stalwart in Bruce Critchley, drawn abroad for the first time to give radio commentary on the US Masters.

But a formidable replacement has been found in Juan Marquez, who plays off two and who will be accompanying his brother, Jose, from Madrid. The captain, Richard Hurst, similarly makes a special journey from Germany.

At Sandwich, bristling as

nowadays with big names

on the first two days, a titanic first-round struggle is in prospect between Merstham Castle, the winners in 1987, and

Shrewsbury, the runners-up to

Merstham in 1986.

Charterhouse, prospective

opponents for Harrow in the

third round, are looking for

revenge after their defeat at the same stage last year. They will

again be captained by Michael Hugheson and relying on Dick Scott, who appears wherever

and whenever the Charterhouse banner is raised.

Shrewsbury, employing the sensible policy of "respecting everyone and fearing none", will be unchanged from last year. That implies a nice blend of youth and experience, in which even the youth can call upon the expertise of Bruce Critchley.

Merstham have one change, introducing John McLean, who is said to be a strong young player from Prestwick. As usual, they are heavily dependent on the brothers, Zulil, Thomson and Briggs. The Karakazovs, alas, are no longer available.

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SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 5 1990

A football 'murder' that never took place

From Ken Shulman in Rome and John Goodbody in London

AN ITALIAN television station has had to apologize for a programme about English football hooliganism which contained a fictitious account of a Chelsea supporter being killed by a Manchester City gang in 1988.

The episode, screened last month on *Canale 5*, has created a furore in Italy, only two months before the first match in the World Cup finals, for there are widespread fears that the tournament will be marred by conflicts between rival supporters.

There is concern that the film will further inflame a situation about which there is already unease, because of the violent reputation of a small minority of

England supporters and the memories of the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster, when 39 Juventus supporters died before the European Cup final against Liverpool.

On March 6, *Canale 5*, the station owned by Silvio Berlusconi, who is also the president of AC Milan, screened a programme devoted to the subject of English hooliganism. It began by showing a fictionalized episode of stadium violence in England.

Then, as an overture to the debate, Gigi Moncalvo, the *Canale 5* reporter, projected an episode which he narrated off the screen, describing the killing of a Chelsea supporter by a group of City supporters during a match in London. Immediately after the assault scene, the programme showed a film of the police

in London arresting the murderer on the day after the crime.

Franco Arturi, an editor at *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, the Milan daily sports newspaper, said: "It was shocking footage — brutal, ugly, violent. It was the kind of film which takes about 10 minutes to get picked up by nearly every major television news broadcast in Europe. It was one of those episodes which you can never forget."

Yet Arturi could not remember the incident and the transmission supplied neither the date of the game nor the names of the two main figures in the sequence, who Moncalvo described simply as the assassin and the victim.

Arturi made a thorough search of the newspaper's files but was unable to

locate an incident similar to the one described during the *Canale 5* transmission.

So he phoned Moncalvo for clarification. Arturi described the television reporter as "reticent", but Moncalvo said that the footage was filmed by police in London and the date of May 8, 1988 was superimposed.

However, *La Gazzetta*'s London correspondent quickly discovered that the match between the two clubs had not been played on that date and it was found that the footage had been shot by the Manchester police during a friendly game between Manchester City and United.

When the film was privately shown, the London correspondent was able to

see the whole episode, which showed the assault but also the supposedly murdered man stand up and walk away after the City supporters had left the scene. There was no murder and the footage of the Metropolitan Police arresting a suspect was related to a totally different incident.

La Gazzetta, followed by other Italian newspapers, has written several articles about the incident.

Arturi said that the cutting of the film should not be considered as a deliberate affront to the English. He said: "It is simply a case of carelessness. The fact that it happened to be centred on an English subject is purely incidental."

At *Canale 5*, Emilio Fede, the news director, has expressed his regret at having involuntarily transmitted a piece

which unjustly accused a group of a serious crime. He described the incident as "a serious professional lapse."

Fede explained that Moncalvo's error was due to the reporter's insufficient knowledge of English, which led to the incorrect translation of the sub-titles, accompanying the film. He also said that Moncalvo claimed that he had not seen the entire film.

However, Fede said that Moncalvo had received a letter reprimanding him for his irresponsible work during the programme and asking him to have a more professional attitude.

Fede explained: "He has been given a yellow card. It is never easy to have to reprimand a colleague. However, I am confident that Moncalvo will be more thorough in the future."

Langer warned of future invite in Augusta rumpus

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Augusta

BERNHARD Langer, the West German golfer, was caught in a controversy yesterday on the eve of the Masters, which created some speculation on his future participation in a tournament which he won in 1985.

Howard Hardin, the chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club, which stages the Masters, admitted to being displeased by an incident on Sunday when, in his opinion, his group of members was held up on the course by Langer practising.

Hardin pointed out that the Masters was an invitational tournament, while Langer stressed that he felt that if anyone had a right to be upset it should be him as he had been driven into on the course.

Bernhard Langer might also regard the incident as being distressing, Hardin said. "We did not realize he had come onto the course at the 10th and we did drive into him. The members' tee at the 11th is also lower down, so you cannot see the fairway and, anyway, we did not expect him to be there. We would have thought that he would have cleared the green

by the time we teed-up.

"I walked over to him and I said we did not appreciate being held up and he said that he did not appreciate being driven into."

The fact is that Sunday is not an official practice day and he had taken his time in front of members playing their course. He would do well to remember that this is an invitational tournament, although I would not at this stage wish to go further than that. I would add that it is the intention of one official, who would be representing both sides, to speak to him."

Langer insisted that he was innocent: "If anything, I should be the one who is upset. At both the 10th and 11th holes, Mr Hardin hit shots past us. I accept that at the 10th he might not have known we were there, because the group would not have been able to see me from the tee."

Langer also denied that, as a protest, he had failed to attend the dinner on Monday for the international players. "I was not well and that is why I was not there," Langer said. "I have caught a cold from my daughter and it is also restrict-

ing the amount of time I can practise."

Hardin said that he, too, did not see Langer's absence as a protest. However, he said: "I would have appreciated him letting us know that he would not be there before he did, which was only minutes before we sat down."

"We also do see it as discourteous that he does not play in the par-three tournament which we stage on Wednesday. I accept that other players, such as Jack Nicklaus and Seve Ballesteros, also choose not to play. But it is a fact that Bernhard did not play in his second year here which was, of course, before he had become one of our champions."

Meanwhile, Greg Norman indicated that he is ready to justify the decision of the bookmakers to instal him as their 8-1 favourite ahead of Seve Ballesteros, Curtis Strange and Nick Faldo, the defending champion. "I like playing here because it's an institution," Norman said.

"I love the tournament. But I can tell you from the moment the bell goes then the pressure is so intense that by Sunday night you have the biggest headache of your life. It drains and drains and drains you."

"To know that you need to feel what it's like going through Amen Corner on Saturday and Sunday with the heat on and the bad breath of a group of chasing players on the back of your neck. I'm ready for that. I'm ready for the tournament. The course is perfect, in fact the best it has ever been, and I'm ready to win."

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PREVIOUS MASTERS WINNERS

The full list of previous Masters champions is:

1954: Horton Smith; 1955: Gene Sarazen; 1956: Horton Smith; 1957: Byron Nelson; 1958: Henry Picard; 1959: Ralph Guldahl; 1940: Jimmy Demaret; 1941: Craig Wood; 1942: Ben Hogan; 1943: Sam Snead; 1944: Gene Sarazen; 1945: Herman Keiser; 1947: Jimmy Demaret; 1948: Claude Harmon; 1949: Sam Snead; 1950: Jimmy Demaret; 1951: Ben Hogan; 1952: Sam Snead; 1953: Ben Hogan; 1954: Sam Snead; 1955: Ben Hogan; 1956: Sam Snead; 1957: Craig Wood; 1958: Jack Burke Jr.; 1959: Doug Ford; 1960: Arnold Palmer; 1961: Art Wall Jr.; 1962: Arnold Palmer.

Gridiron star realizes lifetime ambition

MARC ASPLAND



On target: as he has been so often during his career, Morten Andersen, the New Orleans Saints kicker, practising at Wembley yesterday



Andersen: pleased to be here

WHEN the New Orleans Saints and the Los Angeles Raiders take the field at Wembley on August 5, Morten Andersen will realize a lifelong ambition. Andersen, the kicker for the Saints, is Danish and is well versed in the Association Football lore of the ground (Richard Wetherell writes).

He took up American football when visiting the United States as an exchange student in 1977, and found that he had a talent for kicking — so much so that he has become the second most accurate kicker in the National Football League has seen, succeeding with 77 per cent of his field

goal attempts. He was recently voted the Kicker of the Decade and has made four Pro Bowl appearances.

It is a long way from his days in his native Denmark, when he played soccer, in all positions, but usually centre forward. "I am really excited to be here. As a young football player, aged five, I watched Bobby Charlton and Gordon Banks play at Wembley and it will be a great thrill to play in the same stadium," he said.

Despite his enthusiasm, he no longer plays the round-ball game, but, kicking for the first time since December, he was pleased with the

pitch. "This field is in unbelievable shape. These conditions are the best I have seen."

The game at Wembley will be one in a series of four organized by the NFL in countries outside the United States and provides further proof of their commitment to export the game. On the same day, there is a game between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks in Tokyo. Four days later, the New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers meet in Montreal, and on August 11, the Kansas City Chiefs face the Los Angeles Rams in the Olympic Stadium, Berlin.

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Lamb likely to take field without injured Fraser

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

ENGLAND's chances of clinging on to a precarious lead in the Cable & Wireless series will be heavily influenced this morning by a pre-match fitness test for Angus Fraser.

Fraser's importance to the England strategy cannot be overstated, but his prospects of playing in this fourth Test under Allan Lamb can be no better than even money after straining the intercostal muscle in his left side.

The injury first made itself last Friday, worsened on Monday and seemed, until yesterday, to give Fraser no chance of playing in this series. But a workout in the Kensington Oval nets, beginning gently and working up towards full pace, has restored

If Fraser is ruled out, England could include a spin bowler for the first time in this series. The Barbados pitch is brown, covered with dead grass, and although likely to offer some early life, it may

eventually turn.

England's other fitness doubt, for a game in which they will have more than 3,000 travelling supporters, is emergency opening batsman David Smith, whose bruised left thumb seems likely to dislodge him.

England's policy will be dictated by concern over the form of the stand-by fast bowlers, DeFreitas and Lewis, who between them conceded 98 runs in 13.3 overs during Tuesday's one-day international, while off-spinner Eddie Hemmings was bowling with immaculate control.

Stewart said: "If you take out a consistent bowler like Fraser it will make a big difference to the way we look at it."

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England's other fitness doubt, for a game in which they will have more than 3,000 travelling supporters, is emergency opening batsman David Smith, whose bruised left thumb seems likely to dislodge him.

Sillett is to retire in three years

JOHN Sillett, the Coventry City manager, wants to quit football in three years' time because of the growing pressures of management.

The 53-year-old former Chelsea and Coventry player, who has one year of his contract left, has been offered an improved three-year deal which will run from June. He is expected to sign it in May.

Sillett, who took over as Coventry manager four years ago and has seen the club win the FA Cup and reach the semi-finals of the Littlewoods and Simod Cups during that time, said: "This will be the last contract I will ever sign. I have made a promise to my family that it will be for only three years."

"Football has been my life, but there is a lot of stress and there comes a time when you have to call it a day. But before I go I would love to win the League championship with Coventry."

• Dublin's Chamber of Commerce is to hold a special seminar, with the Irish team manager, Jack Charlton, as a guest, to examine ways of combating absenteeism among workers when the World Cup finals start in Italy in June. Tens of thousands of employees are expected to stay on when the re-arranged fixture at Boundary Park is played.

"Sillett is as upset as any about his sending off, but this is the last thing we need at this stage of the season," Turner said.

"You can sometimes sympathize with bookings for mistimed tackles, but not something like this."

• The Reading forward, Trevor Senior, who has been sidelined with a freak throat injury, played for the whole of a reserve game against Queen's Park Rangers on Tuesday. Senior, who sustained the injury on February 24 when he was elbowed in the throat at Bristol City, has undergone three operations because the blow smashed one cartilage behind the windpipe and badly damaged the other.

Wolverhampton give Mutch fine

By Chris Moore

JOHN Mutch, the Wolverhampton Wanderers forward, sent off at Bournemouth on Tuesday, was yesterday fined a week's wages as the club's deteriorating disciplinary record further threatened their prospects of qualifying for the second division promotion play-off.

Graham Turner, the Wolverhampton manager, confirmed the fine after Mutch was handed a three-match suspension by the Football Association for his dismissal after an elbowing incident in the 1-1 draw at Dean Court.

Mutch will miss home games with Sunderland and Oxford United and the trip to either Oldham Athletic or West Ham United, depending on when the re-arranged fixture at Boundary Park is played.

Turner was already resigned to being without Paul Cook and Mark Venus for next Tuesday's game with Leicester City at Molineux for collecting too many penalty points.

Shane Westley must sit out the following home game, against Newcastle United, on a one-match ban.

"Mutch is as upset as any about his sending off, but this is the last thing we need at this stage of the season," Turner said.

"You can